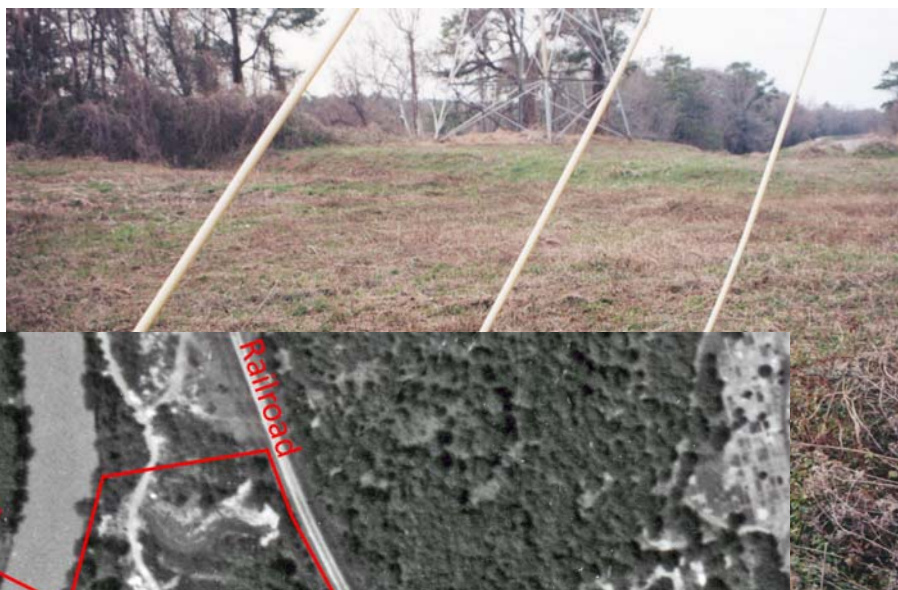


COLUMBIA'S SCANDAL: LOWER CEMETERY



COLUMBIA'S SCANDAL: LOWER CEMETERY

Prepared By:
Michael Trinkley, Ph.D.
and
Debi Hacker

CHICORA RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION 521



Chicora Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 8664
Columbia, SC 29202
803-787-6910
www.chicora.org

December 2009

This report is printed on permanent paper ∞

© 2009 by Chicora Foundation, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted, or transcribed in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise without prior permission of Chicora Foundation, Inc. except for brief quotations used in reviews. Full credit must be given to the authors and publisher.

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Over its 200 years of history Columbia has had three different public city cemeteries. The first was abandoned by the town and turned over to local churches. The second was abandoned by the town and sold to a railroad. The third, while still largely extant, has also been largely abandoned by the City. It has not even attracted the interest of local genealogists or historians, perhaps because the cemetery has been incorrectly viewed exclusively as a pauper graveyard.

The third public burying ground began about 1860, being used by both black and white, rich and poor. It was even used by the town to bury Confederate soldiers who died in Columbia's hospital, first located in the fairgrounds on Elmwood.

By at least the 1880s Columbia's city council established ordinances controlling the burial grounds, creating a cemetery sexton and grave digger. Rules and regulations regarding burials, protection of the burial grounds, and the necessary documentation were established.

In spite of the ordinances and even the requirement that all burials be recorded in specially printed burial books maintained by the City Registrar (today the City Clerk), virtually no official documents concerning the cemetery survive today. In fact, throughout its history Columbia's city council did as little as possible to maintain the cemetery or ensure that it provided dignified conditions. What became known as Lower Cemetery also became one of Columbia's worst scandals, clearly identified in 1910 by the local media. It is from this indictment that the title of this study has been taken. Unfortunately, since 1910 almost nothing

has been done to eliminate the shame caused by the deplorable conditions at Lower Cemetery.

We suggest that by viewing the cemetery as intended for "negroes" or the "poor," Columbia's white city council managed to ignore the condition of the cemetery and pleas from the community to improve what could only be called disgraceful conditions. This made it easier for the City to periodically approve the use of the cemetery for train corridors, interstate highways, and even a garbage dump.

The cemetery was still in active use in the 1930s, although by 1955 only three burials were recorded. We estimate that Lower Cemetery covered at least 5 acres and possibly a far larger area. Today, even with the loss caused by highway construction, at least 4 acres of the cemetery remains on the north side of I-126. An undetermined portion may remain to the south.

Several accounts document the presence of human remains. A twentieth century newspaper account describes bones and coffin hardware being scattered across the surface of the cemetery. Human remains were, in fact, discovered during both of the highway department projects in the cemetery, with numerous burials being removed. Most recently, archaeological shovel testing continued to produce human remains scattered in the soil of the site.

Today the cemetery is taken over by kudzu, thick brambles, trees, and homeless camps. The City allowed a portion to be used for SCE&G's transmission lines.

In spite of the damage and incursions, the cemetery is recommended eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, C, and D. It retains significant integrity and is deserving of protection – both as a cemetery and also as a historic site of considerable significance.

condition – the equivalent of demolition through neglect by the City of Columbia.

This report recommends the City of Columbia:

- Remove the homeless camps in the cemetery and the debris they have generated;
- Remove the kudzu and all trees under 2-inch dbh on the cemetery;
- Develop a long-range vegetation management program to prevent the cemetery from being overtaken by vegetation in the future;
- Work with SCE&G to ensure that their corridor maintenance programs do not cause any additional damage to the cemetery;
- Clean the graffiti and trash that has taken over the I-126 underpass into the cemetery;
- Develop historic signage for the cemetery;
- Rezone Lower Cemetery from RG-2 – DD (General Residential, Design Development) to RG-2, -DD, -DP (General Residential, Design Development, Design Preservation); and
- Create a design preservation overlay for Lower Cemetery to designate the property to Tier I Landmark Status.

Failure to take these minimal – and largely inexpensive steps – will result in the gradual deterioration of the cemetery's

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Figures		iv
List of Tables		iv
Introduction		1
<i>Background</i>	1	
<i>An Overview</i>	2	
Historic Synopsis		5
<i>Columbia's Earlier Public Burying Grounds</i>	5	
<i>Creation of Lower Cemetery</i>	8	
<i>Nineteenth Century News Accounts</i>	10	
<i>The City Cemetery in the Early Twentieth Century</i>	14	
<i>Twentieth Century Newspaper Accounts</i>	16	
<i>Aerial Images of Lower Cemetery</i>	18	
<i>Death Certificate Research</i>	22	
Field Investigations		27
<i>Area 1</i>	27	
<i>Area 2</i>	28	
<i>Area 3</i>	28	
<i>Area 4</i>	31	
<i>Area 5</i>	31	
Conclusions		33
<i>Columbia's Public Cemetery, by Any Other Name</i>	33	
<i>The Origin of the Cemetery</i>	33	
<i>The Boundaries</i>	34	
<i>Eligibility</i>	34	
<i>What Must be Done to Preserve the Cemetery?</i>	36	
Sources Cited		37

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure

1. Vicinity of Columbia's Lower Cemetery	1
2. Map showing the general location of major cemeteries in the City of Columbia	2
3. Richland County tax map aerial showing the approximate limits of the Lower Cemetery	3
4. Lower Cemetery in the summer of 2009	3
5. Ca. 1790 map of Columbia showing the town's second "Burying Grounds"	5
6. 1850 Jackson map showing the second public burial grounds as a "potter's field"	7
7. 1867 plat of Elmwood Cemetery showing the area of Lower Cemetery	8
8. Map of Columbia from 1903 showing the "Negro Cemetery"	14
9. Aerial image of Lower Cemetery from 1938	17
10. Aerial image of Lower Cemetery from 1951	18
11. Aerial image of Lower Cemetery from 1959	18
12. Plans for I-126 from Elmwood to the Broad River, 1957	19
13. Aerial image of Lower Cemetery after the completion of the I-126 widening	21
14. Monument marking the location of the reinterment from the 1976	22
15. Age of Burials in Lower Cemetery, 1915	23
16. Age of Burials in Lower Cemetery, 1925	23
17. Age of Burials in Lower Cemetery, 1935	24
18. Areas identified at Lower Cemetery	27
19. View of the Beachum plot in Area 1	28
20. Area 2 showing some of the plants	28
21. Example of one of the marble headstones found in Area 3	30
22. SCE&G corridor through Lower Cemetery	31
23. Aerial image with topography for the portion of Lower Cemetery south of I-126	31
24. View of Lower Cemetery, Area 5, south of I-126	32

LIST OF TABLES

Table

1. Individuals Identified in Lower Cemetery and Presumed Removed in 1957	20
--	----

INTRODUCTION

Background

Although our interest in Columbia's burial grounds extends back over a decade, it wasn't until recently that we began to publish accounts of these burial grounds, including Randolph Cemetery (Trinkley and Hacker 2007), Douglas Cemetery (Trinkley and Hacker 2008), and Penitentiary Cemetery (Trinkley and Hacker 2009). This report is the fourth in that effort to identify and record at-risk cemeteries in the City of Columbia.

We have explained in these past publications that this work is regrettably spurred by the City's failure to adequately protect graveyards, burial sites, and cemeteries within its boundaries. One might imagine that an "All American City" would eventually become embarrassed by its failure to safeguard the burials of its ancestors. Not the City of Columbia. Its immunity to embarrassment is legendary – as clearly revealed by a series of articles in *The State* newspaper from 1910 when the condition of Lower Cemetery was described – rightly so – as a "scandal." Nothing was done then – and nothing has been done over the following 99 years – to improve the conditions at Lower Cemetery. Thus, it seems appropriate on the eve of the 100th anniversary of Columbia's scandal to once again remind those who care about Columbia's history of the deplorable conditions at the City's only public cemetery.

As with our previous publications, this research is unfunded and represents the accumulation of incremental work over several years. We sampled the post-1915 death certificates listing Lower Cemetery in order to develop a profile of those who would be buried in the cemetery. We carefully reviewed those city council meeting minutes which are still extant (there are significant gaps where the documents were lost or destroyed), and we searched the available index for Columbia's *The State* newspaper (1891-1922; 1987-present). We also collected information on early statutes using bound resources at the South Caroliniana Library. We examined available maps and early twentieth century aerial photographs. We inquired regarding materials that might be



Figure 1. Vicinity of Columbia's Lower Cemetery, looking south-southwest.

present in the Richland County Coroner's Inquest Files. And we examined various secondary accounts for Columbia and its history.

In spite of our efforts, this review is certainly not comprehensive. For example, there is likely much still buried – virtually lost – in *The State* newspaper editions that are not indexed. There may be photographic materials hidden away or mislabeled.

Nevertheless, this represents the most complete historical examination available for

Cemetery.” In spite of the variety of terms it was Columbia’s public cemetery. Although used extensively by the poor (including both whites and blacks) and the friendless, the cemetery was also used by those of means lacking a burial plot elsewhere in the community. Thus, it is incorrect to refer to the cemetery solely or exclusively as a pauper cemetery.

The cemetery began sometime between 1851 and 1878 and was situated on the lowest field overlooking the Columbia Canal just beyond the city limits. It was located west of Elmwood, the City’s new rural cemetery, established in 1854. Unfortunately Richland County land transactions were destroyed during the Civil War, but one unsourced document claims 27 acres were sold by Elmwood to the City of Columbia in 1860 for the creation of the cemetery. This may be correct since the 1867 plat of the 250 acre Elmwood property (Richland County Register of Deeds, DB C, pg. 622) notes that while Elmwood represents the core of Taylor’s Tickleberry Hill Plantation, by 1867 the surrounding lands had already been sold off. The plat reveals that “the original purchase owned by various parties” – this would have

included the land between Elmwood and the Broad River.

Today the cemetery, hardly recognizable as such, is bounded to the west by the Columbia Canal, to the south by I-126 (which on several occasions has gobbled up portions of the cemetery), to the east by Randolph Cemetery, and to the north by open fields. The property has not only been abused by the South Carolina Department of Transportation, who found it no more than old

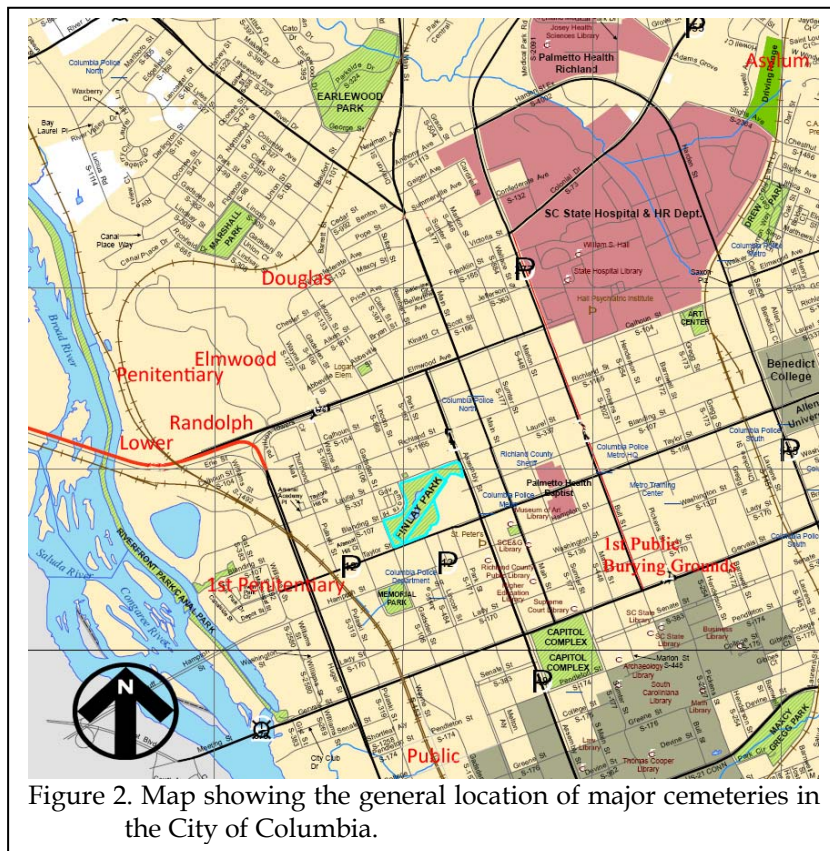


Figure 2. Map showing the general location of major cemeteries in the City of Columbia.

Columbia’s public cemetery. It helps to clear up many of the misunderstandings that have developed over the years regarding who used the cemetery and who, ultimately, was and is responsible for the cemetery’s care and preservation.

An Overview

While Lower Cemetery is the name that will be used throughout this report, over its history, the burial ground was called “lower field,” the “Negro Cemetery,” and “Pauper

INTRODUCTION

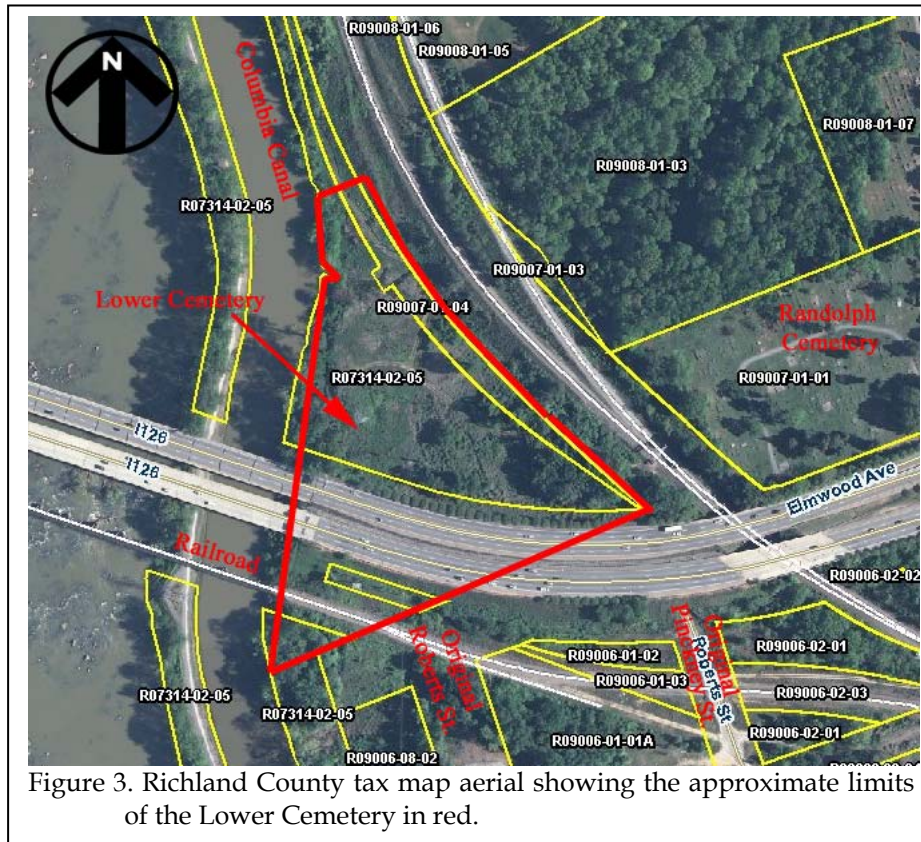


Figure 3. Richland County tax map aerial showing the approximate limits of the Lower Cemetery in red.

and in the way, but also by South Carolina Electric and Gas, which has run a number of high voltage lines through the cemetery (see Figure 1).

During the summer much of the cemetery virtually disappears under a thick cover of kudzu. Other portions of the cemetery have been taken over by homeless camps, ignored by the City of Columbia. It is only during the winter that the vegetation allows portions of the burial grounds to become visible. Extant stones are found in several clusters and grave depressions are found throughout the area.

The Richland County tax maps indicate that the cemetery comprises portions of two numbered parcels - R07314-02-05 and R09007-01-04. Both are owned by the City of

Columbia. Both are zoned RG-2 and the Richland County Assessor has given them a value of \$172,600. The cemetery, however, also occupies property lacking a tax map number - some of which may be held by the S.C. Department of Highways, but some of which is likely also held by the City of Columbia (Figure 3).

Figure 3 shows that historically Roberts and Pinckney streets would have terminated at the cemetery. Randolph Cemetery can be seen to the east (as R09007-01-01) and the Penitentiary Cemetery is at the north edge of the figure (R09008-01-05). Elmwood is to the northeast (R09008-01-07).



Figure 4. Lower Cemetery in the summer of 2009 during a media interview.

Access to Lower Cemetery is difficult, requiring a long trek across the railroad and harsh terrain separating Lower and Randolph cemeteries or by taking Williams Street under I-126 into the cemetery. While the latter allows one to drive, the route passes through litter, gang graffiti, and homeless camps – areas that many are unaware exist in Columbia's downtown. There are no historical markers and Columbia's Lower Cemetery won't be found on any heritage tourism trails. It has been largely forgotten, just as those buried there.

HISTORIC SYNOPSIS

Columbia's Earlier Public Burying Grounds

Columbia's first public burying ground was established in 1798 by "An Act for the Better Regulating the Streets and Markets of the Town of Columbia, and for other purposes therein mentioned." Item 60 of the act specified that:

Whereas the inhabitants of the town of Columbia have experienced great inconveniences from the want of a public burial ground, Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the commissioners of Columbia shall immediately after the passing of this act, lay out a piece of ground, which shall not exceed a square of four acres, and which said lot shall be vested in the commissioners of the streets, as trustees in behalf of the inhabitants, who are hereby authorized, when these funds are competent thereinto, to erect a building thereon, for the purpose of public workshop, and the residue of the said lot shall be free for all the inhabitants to bury their dead therein, as also for the burial of all strangers who may die in the said town (Cooper 1839:11).

established somewhat earlier, on December 16, 1797, with the grounds "prepared" the following year (Hennig 1936:374).

This initial property laid out in the block bounded by Lady Street to the south and Washington Street to the north, Marion Street to the west and Bull Street to the east. For reasons not entirely clear only a few years later, in 1805, the South Carolina Legislature repealed this act, specifying the property that "has not been made use of" should be sold. The proceeds of the sale would then be used to acquire a second plot, "in some part of the town which will be more suitable" (Cooper 1839:16). The first plot was acquired by Columbia's First Presbyterian Church, incorporated in 1813. The earliest extant marker in the cemetery is that of the Rev. David Dunlap, who died in 1804.

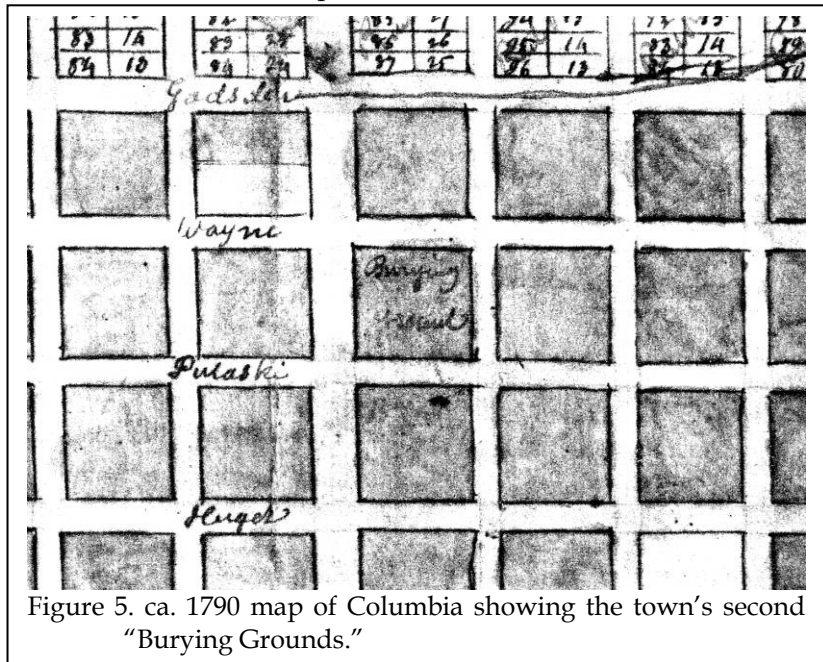


Figure 5. ca. 1790 map of Columbia showing the town's second "Burying Grounds."

Hennig, using secondary sources, contends that the burying grounds were

We have not been able to identify when the next cemetery was acquired, although a map

of Columbia dating to ca. 1790 shows "Burying Ground" at Wayne, Pulaski, Senate, and Pendleton. Since this map continued to be used, with sales added over a period of time, the map cannot be used to confirm when the cemetery was created, only to document its location and that, originally, it was viewed as a city cemetery, not a "potter's field." Hennig (1936:70), however, reports that the new burial ground was established by the city in 1807.

On February 24, 1808 the City passed an ordinance that prohibited the establishment of any new cemeteries within the limits of the city, excluding the plot "of land recently donated to the Catholic Church for the purpose of a cemetery on Elmwood Avenue" (this would have been even prior to the creation of Elmwood Cemetery).

In 1851 the Town passed "An Ordinance Regulating Burying Grounds" that is worth repeating at length since it provides an exceptional account of burials at mid-century:

Section 1. Be it ordained by the Intendant and Wardens of the Town of Columbia, known as Potter's Field, be, and the same is hereby, set off and assigned as a public burying ground: the eastern half shall be used as a burial ground for whites, and the western half for blacks.

Section 2. And be it further ordained, That if any negro, mulatto, or mustizo shall hereafter bury, cause to be buried, or assist in burying, any deceased negro, mulatto, or mustizo; or shall dig, cause to be dug, or assist in digging, any grave for the burial of any deceased negro, mulatto, or mustizo, at any place within the corporate limits, except at the aforesaid negro burying

ground; or shall bury, or cause to be buried, any deceased negro, mulatto, or mustizo, at a depth less than five feet below the surface of the adjacent ground, such negro, mulatto, or mustizo, so offending, shall receive twenty lashes; and any white person offending against the provisions of the above ordinance shall pay a fine of twenty dollars for each and every offense.

Section 3. And be it further ordained, That it shall be duty of the Chief Marshall, or any one of the assistant marshals, whenever application shall be made to him by any negro, mulatto, or mustizo, to give such assistance and instructions as may be necessary

Section 4. And be it further ordained, That no new burying ground shall be laid out or used within the corporate limits of the town of Columbia, under penalty of fifty dollars for each body buried therein.

Section 5. Be it further ordained, That this ordinance shall take effect from and after the first day of May next.

This does not address the location of any public burial grounds between ca. 1805 and 1851, although it is not clear if this ordinance was creating the new public grounds, or simply formalizing what already existed in some form.

The 1850 Jackson Map of the City of Columbia reveals that the "Potters Field" was situated on the block bounded by Senate Street to the north, Wayne Street to the east, Pendleton Street to the south, and Pulaski Street to the west

(Figure 6). The name, however, may be a misnomer. A period observer, Julian Selby (who was born in 1833), remarked:

Potter's Field was for a length of time used for the burial of all classes of people - rich and poor, black and white. The first merchant in Columbia, who occupied a store, northwest

agreement the railroad agreed "to remove all gravestones and such remains of persons now buried there as may be practicable and necessary, to one of the public cemeteries of the City." The railroad retained Walter S. Monteith to perform this work for the sum of \$600.

Here again Selby provides additional information, commenting that he never heard of any disinterments being requested, although one individual, Mrs. M.W. Stratton "claimed and received the brick enclosing the remains of an aunt and uncle." He comments that, "the old head and foot-stones went somewhere" (Selby 1905:93). That somewhere would almost certainly have been the "new" public burying ground west of Elmwood, known as Lower Cemetery - there was no other public graveyard in the city, all of the others were either church or private.

Selby suggests that while the obvious indications of the graveyard were removed, there were few, if any, remains actually relocated. Another period observer, J.F. Williams (1929:133) also reports on the acquisition of the cemetery by the railroad. He noted, "money corporations have no respect for the dead and very little for the living - only what they can grind out of them" (Williams 1929:49).

What the railroad did not destroy in their yard, the City of Columbia and the U.S. Housing and Urban Development consented to destroy with the development of the property in 2000 as Vista Commons. Even the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office wasn't interested, writing off the project as "consistent" with their "goals and objectives" (letter from Ms. Nancy Brock dated October 18, 1999). This resulted in the unimaginable loss of bioanthropological data - a storehouse of skeletal data on Columbia's earliest residents.

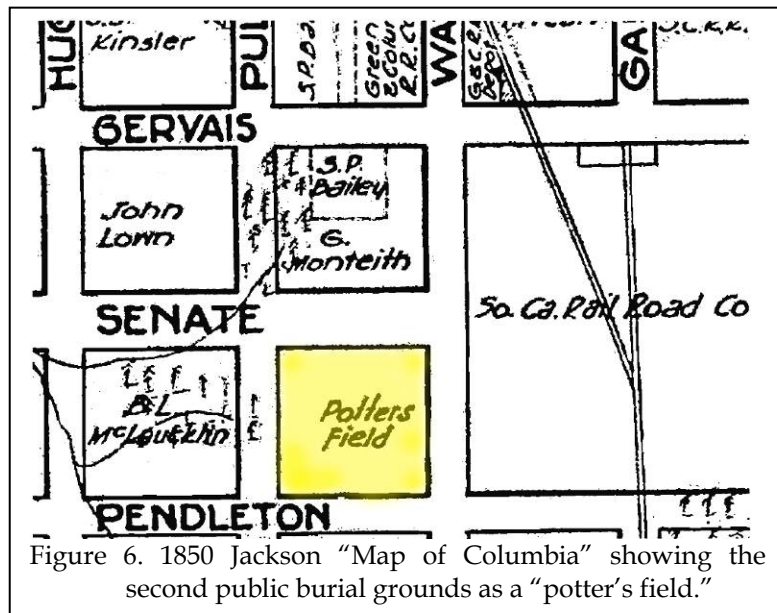


Figure 6. 1850 Jackson "Map of Columbia" showing the second public burial grounds as a "potter's field."

corner Main and Boundary, in what was afterwards known as "Cotton Town," and who was reputed to be a man of wealth, was deposited there with his wife, under marble slabs, and with a substantial brick enclosure (Selby 1905:93).

The ordinance is of special interest since it divided the four acre plot into two divisions - one for the city's whites and the other for its African American citizens.

While we may not be certain when this burial ground was opened, we do know that on February 11, 1881 the Wilmington, Columbia and Augusta Railroad purchased the property from the City of Columbia. As part of the

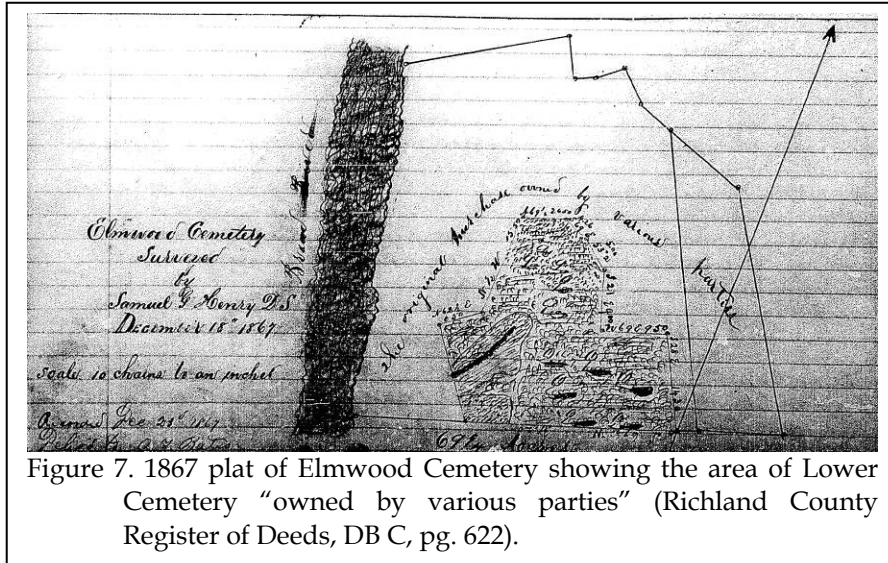


Figure 7. 1867 plat of Elmwood Cemetery showing the area of Lower Cemetery "owned by various parties" (Richland County Register of Deeds, DB C, pg. 622).

The Creation of Lower Cemetery

As previously mentioned, one unsourced document suggests that 27 acres was acquired by the Town from Elmwood Cemetery in 1860. Williams confirms at least part of this, noting that "when it [the second public burying grounds] got filled up the city bought a tract from the Elmwood Cemetery Company west of the Greenville Railroad, on the river banks and started one there, and it is nearly filled up now" (Williams 1929:133). This is also supported by the 1867 plat of Elmwood that reveals the land today known at Lower Cemetery was already disposed of (Figure 6; this plat and its associated deed replaced those dating from 1855 which had been destroyed). It may be that the existence of this newer cemetery, at the edge of town, was the reason Columbia sought to dispose of the older burial grounds within the town limits (Elmwood Cemetery was not annexed into the city until 1907).

Another indication that Columbia had a new public cemetery was the 1863 burial of Columbia prostitute Dutch Rose at what was then called Tickleberry – an early name for Lower Cemetery (Anonymous n.d.).

However, the best evidence comes from yet another discussion in the publication *Old and New Columbia* by J.F. Williams. He provides a first-hand account of how initially Columbia's Civil War dead were buried in Elmwood, although they "finally started to burying the, in the new Potters Field, just next to the Greenville Railroad, and buried the, there until the close of the war" (Williams 1929:102).

By the second half of the nineteenth century Columbia sought to more carefully regulate burials. On July 9, 1878 the town passed "An Ordinance to Regulate Burials." This made it illegal to bury any individual, either inside the corporate limits or adjacent to the town, "without a proper certificate of the attending physician or coroner for Richland County. . . endorsed by the City Registrar." The ordinance developed a complex arrangement where the physician or coroner would provide a certificate of death to the family, who in turn would deliver that to the undertaker. The undertaker transferred the certificate to the sexton. It was the duty of the sexton "to copy such certificate in a book to be kept by him for such purposes and deliver the originals there of to the clerk of council of the said City of Columbia." In spite of this law, we are unfamiliar with any surviving evidence of these certificates – there are no books held by cemeteries and no City records to reveal that the records were maintained by the clerk.

Apparently this process did not work (or was not to the liking of the city's undertakers) since on October 14, 1884 it was modified so that the death certificate, delivered to the family by the physician or coroner, would be "submitted to the City Registrar for his endorsement." Then it was to be transferred to

the sexton who was not to allow burial until the certificate was "returned to the City Registrar" where it was to be filed "in a book kept for that purpose." There is no record of these books and we presume that they were destroyed.

We have, however, found no indication of the new cemetery in any of Columbia's laws until the November 26, 1885 ordinance in which the "City Cemetery" is specifically mentioned:

An ordinance to provide for the appointment of Sexton and Grave Digger of City Cemetery to define his duties and fix his compensation.

Section 1. Be it ordained by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Columbia in Council assembled and by the authority of the same. That the Mayor be and he is hereby authorized one or more persons who shall be known as Sexton and Grave Digger of the city cemetery and shall hold their office during the pleasure of the Mayor.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the said Sexton and Grave Digger of the City Cemetery to take charge of the Cemetery. Protect it from trespassers and to provide graves for the dead entitled to interment. There in and in all cases to see what the requirements of an ordinance entitled, "An ordinance to regulate burials within the City of Columbia and to prevent the spread of contagious diseases" is the first complied with and to make the report therein required to the City Registration.

Section 3. As compensation for their services, the said Sexton and Grave Digger shall have the exclusive right to dig all graves in the City Cemetery and shall be allowed to charge and receive for their own use the following fees, and no other. To wit for each grave dug for a person not a pauper to be paid for by person representing deceased. One dollar. For each grave dug for a pauper to be paid by the proper public authorities chargeable with the interment of such pauper. Seventy Five cents.

It is uncertain whether these positions were consistently filled by Columbia's mayors. A June 27, 1889 letter from the City Registrar complains that "The Pauper Grounds have no Sexton, so that it is presumed bodies can be interred surreptitiously." The City Registrar pleaded with council to serve notice on "sextons, keepers of cemeteries and undertakers to adhere strictly to the Ordinance."

Oddly, the response was to create a committee that on September 24, 1889 reported recommending that the City Attorney draw an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to "appoint one or more Sextons and Grave Diggers for Potters Field to hold during the pleasure of the Mayor - essentially an identical ordinance to that previously approved in 1885 (City Council Minutes, October 1886-November 1889). Regardless, this new resolution was approved on its third reading November 26, 1889.

On September 27, 1887 the city council received a petition from the Newberry & Laurens Railroad requesting permission to enter the city by crossing the Columbia Canal "near the western point of the old Potter's Field, then across the point of the Potter's Field, thence across Elmwood Avenue in a northeast direction." The petition was referred to the

Committee on Streets and on October 11 it was approved, "provided, that all bodies and stones in Potter's Field be carefully removed" (City Council Minutes, January 1883-September 1886).

By at least 1889 the City was operating one of its six open trash dumps at "Elmwood Avenue just below Cemetery - located at the head of Cemetery Hill" (Report of the Committee of the Board of Health, June 25, 1889, City Council Minutes, October 1886-November 1889). Unfortunately the description is so poorly worded that it is impossible to ascertain the dump's location.

We have documentation that in 1889 the council requested that the Committee on Streets have "all large trees cut down and bushes cleaned up in the Potters Fields [sic]" (City Council Minutes, October 1886-November 1889).

In 1897 the ordinance regarding the burial grounds was again updated. For the first time a variety of laws were compiled into one ordinance. This new law continued to require a sexton and grave digger be appointed by the mayor. It was their duty to "take charge of the Cemetery, protect it from trespassers and to provide graves for the dead entitled to interment therein." The charges remained \$1 for those not paupers and 75¢ for paupers. The revised ordinance does however indicate that the burials grounds were the "City Cemetery" and were "situated in the western portion of the City of Columbia, to the west of the Greenville and Columbia Railroad, and within the corporate limits of the City." It specified the need for a certificate to allow interment and outlined that the certificate was to be returned to the City Registrar. It included a provision prohibiting any new cemeteries within the corporate limits and established a fine of \$40 for any burial not in an established cemetery (Thomas 1895:56-58).

Late Nineteenth Century News Accounts

There are a variety of late nineteenth century news accounts describing Lower Cemetery, typically called "Potter's Field." One example is the April 25, 1891 article describing the burial of Waites Martin. Martin, an African American, was hung for the murder of his "white paramour," Alice McLeod. He was buried "amid the myriad of dead in potter's field above the river." Upon the arrival of the hearse the grave had not yet been dug and the article explains that the grave digger was "sent for." The grave digger:

Selected a spot on the eastern edge of the field, near the C & G [Columbia and Greenville; chartered in 1846, with construction beginning in 1849] railroad line, and set to work. In digging down he came into three different old graves and some bystanders carried off at least three skulls and other relics. The grave was completed in 21 minutes. . . . Alice McLeod, his victim's body, is buried at the entrance to the cemetery ("Martin Dies on the Gallows, *The State*, April 25, 1891, pg. 8).

Clearly, the cemetery was heavily used so that in perhaps only 30 years, the excavation of a grave disturbed multiple earlier burials. The account of the grave being excavated in only 21 minutes also suggests that it was relatively shallow - especially since this area is largely clay soil.

The big news, however, was the effort by Columbia's African American community to improve conditions at the cemetery. This suggests that while "potter's field" was used by all of the people in Columbia, it was more often than not the last resting place of Columbia's black citizens. In late summer of 1891 an article appeared describing the property:

Perhaps the oldest and most thickly populated burying ground in this State is the colored cemetery - better known as Potter's field and the cemetery across the railroad. It is certainly in about as bad a condition as a cemetery can well be. Seeing that the white people have begun to clean up and beautify Elmwood Cemetery, the colored people have decided to do likewise, and yesterday a general mass meeting of colored citizens was called to take action on the matter ("Reclaiming Potter's Field," *The State*, August 16, 1891, pg. 8).

Just a few days later the cemetery was described in another article as a "wilderness" ("Restoring the Potter's Field," *The State*, August 18, 1891, pg. 8).

At the general meeting, held at the Sidney Park Church, the African American community realized that the cemetery was "owned by the city" and a committee was formed to ask the city council to undertake the cleanup. In addition, another committee was appointed to investigate purchasing property "for a new cemetery for the colored people" ("The Colored Cemetery," *The State*, August 20, 1891, pg. 8; see also "The Colored Cemetery," *The State*, August 24, 1891, pg. 8).

A petition for the cleaning of the potter's field was presented to the city council on August 25. Councilman Allwords reported that several years ago the council passed a resolution that city forces would clean the cemetery every winter - a resolution that clearly was not being acted on. A motion by Councilman Brennen was made that an appropriation of \$150 be made to effect the cleaning of the cemetery, but Allwords objected. At this the representative of the African American community explained that since the cemetery was owned by the city, it

should be kept up by the city. In addition, he explained that "the cemetery was too crowded for more and it would only be a matter of keeping the home of the dead in proper condition." Ironically, the council claimed that city finances were too poor to allow any such action - "that the taxpayers should go ahead and do their work themselves" with Council giving its full permission.

Having neatly sidestepped the issue of cemetery maintenance, the council turned its attention to the remark that the cemetery was full:

Mr. Sloan could not see by what authority the cemetery was crowded with the dead from the penitentiary and asylum, State Institutions, and wanted the matter looked into. He moved that the whole matter be postponed until the next meeting of the council to permit of this investigation. If the property belonged to the city, he said, he wanted to see it kept right" ("By the Tin Lantern's Dim Light," *The State*, August 26, 1891, pg. 8).

At the next meeting of city council, the members tacitly concurred that the property was owned by the city, but Allwords explained that while the requested work should be done, "that this was not the time of the year to attend to it as the shrubbery would grow up again at once." Instead of action, the council appointed a committee "to investigate and see what best to be done" ("City Fathers Confer Together," *The State*, September 9, 1891, pg. 8). The long postponed clean-up was finally arranged, with "after Nov. 1 four of the men of the street force be detailed to clean up the grounds and keep them in condition, under the direction of the special committee" ("Potter's Field to be Cleaned," *The State*, October 9, 1891, pg. 8).

Meanwhile action by the African American was likewise deferred ("The Proposed New Colored Cemetery," *The State*, August 27, 1891, pg. 8). At a meeting eventually held on September 9, the "committee has failed to select the site [of a new cemetery] from the three they have in view." It was decided to form a stock company to acquire a new cemetery and 30 individuals apparently subscribed ("The Colored Cemetery," *The State*, September 10, 1891, pg. 8).

Nothing more was reported on the plans by the black community to acquire a new cemetery until March 1893. As a result of an "all night meeting" of a thousand at Sidney Park Church it was alleged that James Robinson had misappropriated the funds raised for the acquisition of the new cemetery. Apparently Robinson placed \$200 earnest money on the purchase of Columbia's scheutzenplatz for the new cemetery. The option for purchase, however, was allowed to expire and the funds were lost. This was compounded by allegations that Robinson had also stolen church funds. This is the last mention found of any effort to acquire a new African American cemetery.

In late 1891 the issue of the Asylum's use of the city cemetery was again in the news. The Asylum Regents held a meeting to consider "the location of the proposed increase in the cemetery ground of the institution. It is a question as to whether they will buy more ground in the city cemetery or use a location on their own property" ("The Asylum Regents," *The State*, December 10, 1891, pg. 8). Of course, this article leaves it unclear whether the "city cemetery" is the public cemetery or might be a reference to the lot held by the Asylum in Elmwood. This issue was dropped at least until late 1892:

There has been some official complaint that the Asylum dead in Potter's field were being buried in graves that were so shallow that dogs could scratch

up the bodies. The board investigated and found that the fault, if any, rested with the undertaker they had employed to take charge of such work. However, they will not bother the officials any more as their cemetery on their own property just outside the city was ordered opened at once and hereafter all the Asylum dead will be buried there under the direct supervision of the officers of the Asylum" ("The Asylum Lighting," *The State*, September 9, 1892, pg. 8).

This article would seem to confirm that the state was using some of the potter's field for burial of patients, as alleged in City Council a year earlier. Given the large number of deaths documented for the asylum, this may also help explain why the cemetery so quickly filled up. The earlier article, however, implies that the Asylum was purchasing plots from the city.

By February 1892 the condition of the potter's field was again an issue and "a detail of the street hands was yesterday put to work in the colored cemetery. The committee will have the place entirely cleaned up and put in good condition before leaving it" ("Short Statements," *The State*, February 28, 1892, pg. 8; see also "City Fathers in Session," *The State*, February 24, 1892, pg. 8).

In 1893 the potter's field was repeatedly in the news, although not so much for its condition as for what was happening there. In late February a "partially buried infant's corpse" was found in "a small pine soap box, and were wrapped around with an infant's napkin and a shirt, both of fine material" ("Caused a Sensation," *The State*, February 26, 1893, pg. 8). An examination revealed that the burial was the result of an abortion and while "the police had a clue as to the maternity of the child, it was found that no legal steps could be taken."

A nearly identical situation occurred at the end of 1893, when a white child was discovered:

partially buried in the potter's field. It was nailed up in a small pine box which was wrapped around with a portion of a woman's dress ("An Infant in a Box," *The State*, December 20, 1893, pg. 8).

Only a few days later it was reported that the child died of natural causes ("From Natural Causes," December 22, 1893, pg. 8).

In March the paper reported that the council renewed the lease "of a portion of the city cemetery property" ("Busy Night in Council," *The State*, March 15, 1893, pg. 8). Although no more details concerning this lease could be found in the city council minutes, Thomas Pope was an Eau Claire butcher and it seems likely that he was leasing a portion of the cemetery to keep stock. This was probably a very agreeable arrangement with council since it probably reduced the need to clean the cemetery – and Columbia's poor or black citizens were hardly in a position to complain about the ethics of the practice.

But perhaps the most interesting article is a brief mention that Columbia's Chief of Police had the "unused portion of the property near the canal laid off in neat lots and hereafter all burials will be required to be made in this new territory ("A Nuisance Abated," *The State*, March 10, 1893, pg. 8). The article suggests that the action was the result of complaints regarding improper burial, but it fails to explain exactly what portion of the cemetery was considered "new territory."

In 1896 Mayor Sloane addressed the city council, again reminding them of their responsibility to the public cemetery:

I desire to call your attention to the bad condition of the cemetery for colored people. It needs work and attention. Besides, this cemetery is too small, and provisions should be made for enlarging it, or another cemetery should be opened up for the use of the colored portion of our colored population [sic] who are not able to provide themselves with a burying ground ("Columbia's New Council," *The State*, April 14, 1896, pg. 2).

It is unlikely council acted on this need – certainly there is no indication of action in either council minutes or the newspaper. However, by mid 1897 the black community was again attempting to resolve the problem. An organization known as the Saint's Rest Association was formed "for the purpose of cleaning up and keeping in good condition the colored cemetery near the river, known as Potter's Field." The organization was lead by Sallie E. Hooper and she was raising funds to not only keep the cemetery cleaned, but to also "put a fence around the cemetery" ("The Colored Cemetery," *The State*, May 25, 1897, pg. 8). The only other mention of this organization or Hooper is in July 1897 when she alleged improper conduct by Clarence F. Holmes, the editor of the African American newspaper, *The People's Recorder* ("Holmes Insulted Her," *The State*, July 1, 1897, pg. 8).

A November 22, 1897 article reveals that the cemetery – in spite of its frequent association with the African American community – was being used by whites as well. The article reports that "an unknown white man had been killed by the South Carolina and Georgia railroad" and the body, assumed to be that of a "tramp" was buried in the "potter's field." It was, however, J.W. Wallace, a Fairfield farmer in Columbia on business. He was exhumed and returned to

Fairfield for burial there ("The Mystery Solved," *The State*, November 22, 1897, pg. 8).

The City Cemetery in the Early Twentieth Century

The potter's field does not appear to have been a topic of conversation recorded in the council minutes during the early twentieth century – at least not directly. On January 8, 1924 Mayor Coleman appointed Councilman DuPre as a committee of one to work with the mayor to investigate the city's purchase of a municipal cemetery. No report was ever presented, but in March 1926 D.W. Robinson appeared asking council to purchase a municipal cemetery. Council's response was to pass a resolution stating, "it is the sense of the City Council that there is a pressing need for a municipally or township owned and controlled cemetery for this town or township" (City Council Minutes, March 8, 1926).

Several years later the issue was again discussed, this time by Mayor L.B. Owens, a physician, who submitted a lengthy statement to the council:

One of Columbia's greatest needs is a municipal cemetery where lots can be bought at prices that can be reached by people of moderate means . . . Fifty Acres would make 40,100 graves fifty or seventy five acres would be sufficient. We have a tentative sketch of one acre which would bury 802 people. My plan would be to develop [sic] about six acres, roads and walkways, and curbing, grand walks, etc., and when this was

sold out, extend the development. Lots for one, two, four, six, eight, and ten graves, prices some per grave, not less than \$6.00 or more than \$8.00 each grave dependent upon cost of land. I would want it modern in every way, properly situated and made attractive . . . (City Council Minutes, October 29, 1929).

There is no indication that council endorsed the plan or that any action was ever taken by Dr. Owens. Nor has it been determined if this was in response to the situation at potter's field or perhaps the declining conditions at Elmwood Cemetery.

Regardless, there must have been some action since the council approved action by the cemetery committee "with reference to the

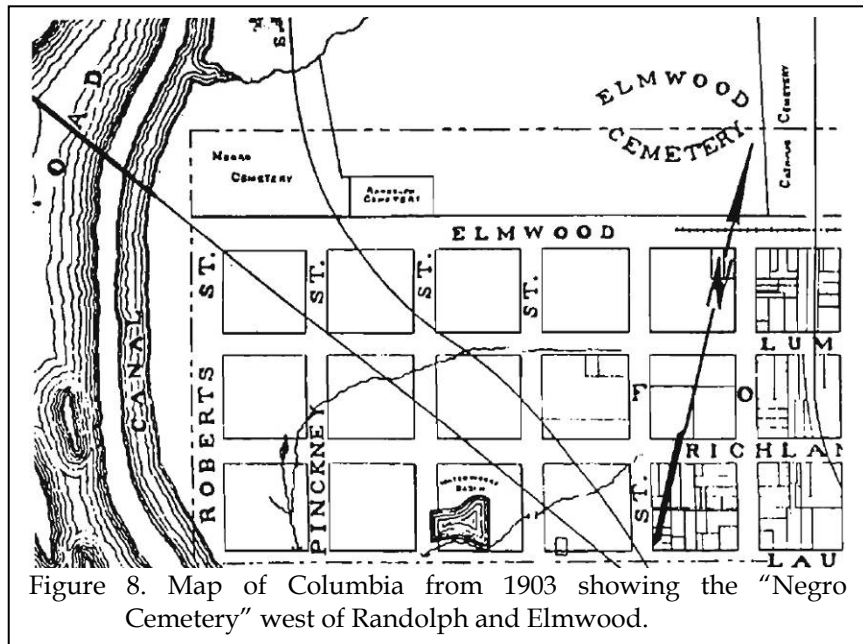


Figure 8. Map of Columbia from 1903 showing the "Negro Cemetery" west of Randolph and Elmwood.

establishment of a municipal cemetery" (City Council Minutes, December 10, 1929).

Just a week later the minutes reveal that the Trustees of Cantonment Land – the land used for Camp Jackson during World War I and no longer needed by the federal government –

offered a proposal to the city, good for six months. They would convey land to the city for the use as a municipal cemetery with certain provisions:

Columbia obtain bona fide contracts from white people for the purchase of at least sixty plots . . . aggregating not less than three hundred graves, earnest money of not less than fifty per cent of the purchase price to be paid in on each contract. That the funds derived from the sale of the plots or graves be placed in a trust fund approved by this board and not be subject to disposal or control by the City of Columbia That the City of Columbia submit all plans for said cemetery, including plan of development of the cemetery and perpetual care, to this Board for approval" (City Council Minutes, December 17, 1929).

While the city wanted a municipal cemetery and this plan represented a means of making that a reality, it appears that the city chafed under the terms and attempted to negotiate with the federal government, demanding that control be placed in the hands of a cemetery commission, including one member of the Board, one member of city council, and one member of the Richland County delegation.

The effort at negotiation was rejected by the Board, which resubmitted its original plan, allowing the city a year for consideration. This time the plan was approved "in a general way" with "details [to] be worked out later" (City Council Minutes, January 14, 1930). However, shortly thereafter the lands were again needed by the military and the plans for a municipal cemetery were abandoned.

In 1933 there is some resolution regarding the location of the garbage dump in the vicinity of the pauper cemetery. Council minutes reveal that there was a "garbage dump located on the property of the State of South Carolina, which property is northwest of the City of Columbia, near the Broad River Bridge and near the Southern Railroad at a spot known as 'Cooter Pond'" (City Council Minutes, August 8, 1933).

In 1940 the owner of Elmwood Cemetery offered the property to the City. The prospectus revealed that there was ample acreage for the expansion of the "white cemetery," space for a park, an area at the northwestern edge that could be used for garbage disposal, acreage for "the establishment of a pauper cemetery, which is most needed both for the county and the city" at the north edge, and "by entrance on the street adjoining the Seaboard Air Line Railway a cemetery for the colored race could be established, with an entrance from that street with ample acreage for future growth" (City Council Minutes, July 16, 1940). No action was taken and this appears to be the last effort to create a municipal cemetery.

While the minutes don't reflect any activity by city council to maintain or control activities at Lower Cemetery, the city ordinances concerning the cemetery were revised on several occasions. In 1907 the provisions were found in Chapter 9, under the Health Department. The mayor was still to appoint a sexton and grave digger and the grave digger was still allowed to charge 75¢ for pauper graves and \$1.00 for other graves (Edmunds 1907).

The ordinances were codified again in 1917 (Anonymous 1919:110-112), with no appreciable change in verbiage. The primary benefit of this edition is that it documents that the City Cemetery was present by at least June 11, 1872 when city council enacted a provision making it illegal to "drive hogs, cattle, horses, or mules, or stock of any description whatever unto or through the City Cemetery, situated in

the western portion of the City of Columbia, to the west of the Columbia and Greenville Railroad and within the corporate limits of the city."

When the city ordinances were again published in 1933 the provisions regarding the City Cemetery had been entirely eliminated (Thomson 1933). We were unable, however, to find any discussion of the cemetery or the revisions in the city council minutes.

Twentieth Century Newspaper Accounts

While the city council records are largely silent regarding Lower Cemetery, the burial grounds still caught the attention of Columbia's media.

For example in August 1901 a suicide of an unidentified man at a local hotel caught the public's attention - primarily because the individual was buried in the pauper cemetery less than 13 hours after death. The individual was later identified and the question arose of why the unidentified remains had not been retained pending identification. It was pointed out that it was the custom in all cities the size of Columbia to retain bodies in a city morgue. The McCormick undertaking firm stepped forward, offering to serve as the city morgue and the offer was accepted by an undoubtedly embarrassed city council ("Some Facts About State Embalmers," *The State*, August 14, 1901, pg. 7; "'Sentiment' vs. Legal Opinion," *The State*, August 14, 1901, pg. 7; City Council Minutes, August 23, 1901).

There are several accounts in 1905 concerning the city now dumping its trash "in the rear of the potter's field" ("Council Will Sell Waterworks Bonds," *The State*, July 26, 1905, pg. 8; "The City Council in Regular Session," *The State*, August 23, 1905). This may have contributed to the comment only a few months later that, "the negro cemetery in its present condition is a disgrace to the city"

("Improvement of Columbia," *The State*, April 29, 1906, pg. 22).

In early 1910 the public was shocked to learn that one of the city's African American undertakers was charged with burying two bodies in one coffin, as well as the burial of another individual without clothes - both found in the potter's field.

In the first case a blind woman, Mrs. Hambrick, who died of exposure was buried with a child found dead in the Waverly community. In the second case J.C. Morrison was found nude in his coffin, "packed around with excelsior and covered over with a newspaper" ("A Sad Story of Potter's Field," *The State*, February 23, 1910, pg. 3; for Collicutt's response see "The Potter's Field Scandal, *The State*, March 2, 1910, pg. 9).

The article went on to describe the conditions in potter's field:

When the poor of Columbia die they are buried in the potter's field. This last resting place of the poor and friendless of Columbia is located in the western section of the city, on the bluff between the Southern railway and the Columbia canal, and just beyond Elmwood cemetery.

The plot contains possibly five acres of ground and is covered with a dense growth of elder trees, briars, and vines. The surface, except where broken by sunken graves, and most of the graves are sunken, is covered with broom corn, which has been swept by fire in spots. Through the wild burying ground wind several roadways.

In many sections of the potter's field can be found the bones of human beings, broken, scattered about. Here and there is found the handle or other ornament of a coffin, and decayed pieces of plank.

The potter's field is crowded, and many of the graves have been used more than once. The statement was made yesterday by one who has had intimate knowledge of this plot of ground "that it has been buried over more than once, sometimes the bodies are dug up and another coffin placed in the same grave."

Two graves at the potter's field dug within the past few days show that the bones have been thrown out. The dirt taken from one of the graves is not unmixed with pieces of bone, decayed wood, and metal from a coffin.

At the bottom of a grave being dug can be seen the end of a coffin, in an adjoining grave, part of which is disturbed in making the new.

Few graves are marked. Here and there can be found a small head piece, usually of wood, with the name indistinctly scribbled in pencil. This soon wears away and the person is forever forgotten. The only record of a man, woman or child buried in the potter's field is to be found in the

books of the board of health, giving the name, age, disease, and "buried in the lower field."

It is impossible to estimate the number of people that have been buried in potter's field. Doubtless several thousand, judging from the proximity of the graves.

But even in potter's field can occasionally be found flowers on the graves. In some few instances can be found the touch of loving hands, but there is nothing permanent. The

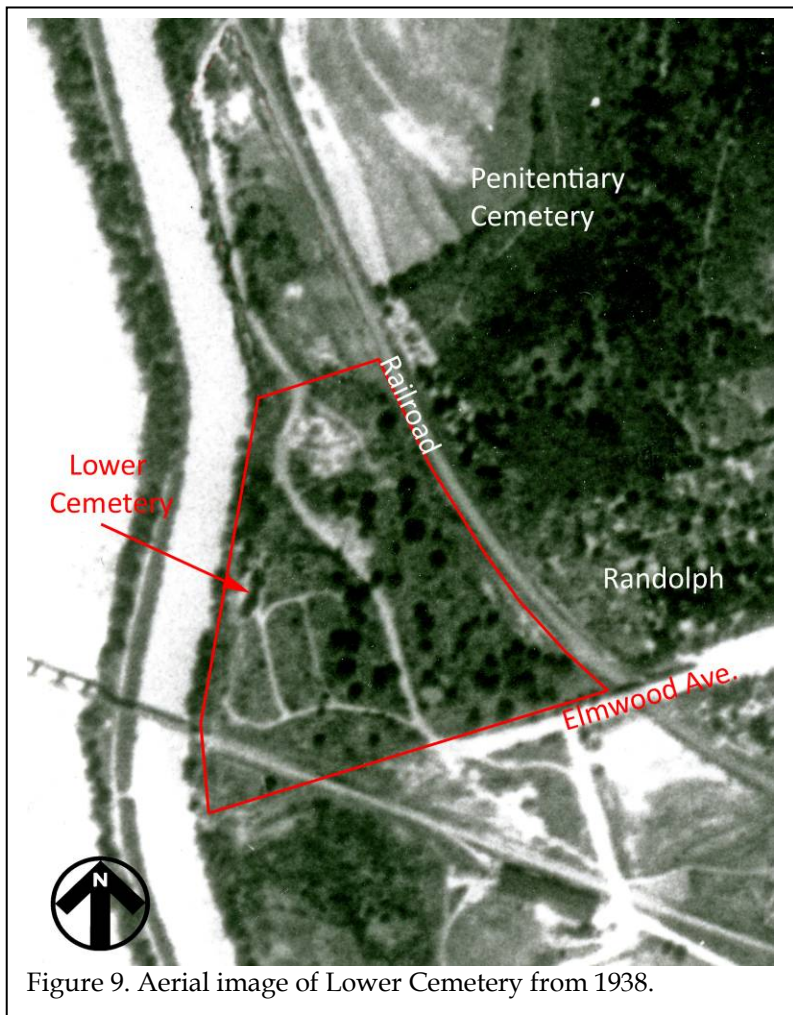


Figure 9. Aerial image of Lower Cemetery from 1938.

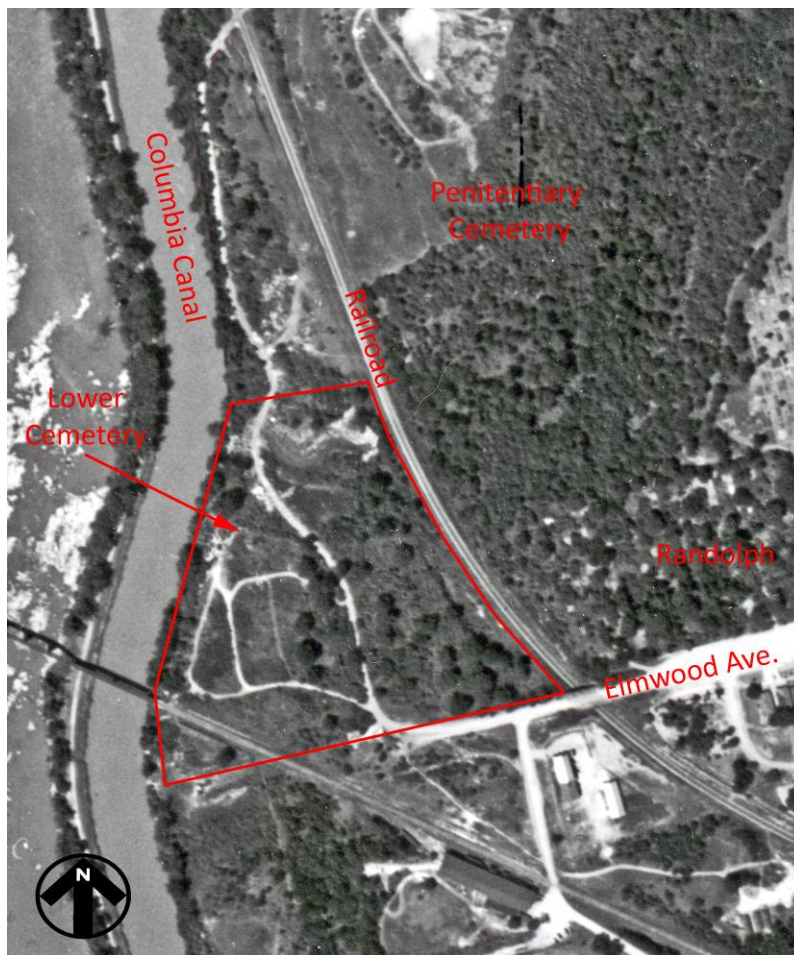


Figure 10. Aerial image of Lower Cemetery from 1951.

pauper dead soon are forgotten forever ("A Sad Story of Potter's Field," *The State*, February 23, 1910, pg. 3).

Not only is this description poignant, but it also provides critical information. The author estimated about 5 acres in 1910, provides a description of the dense vegetation, mentions the winding roads (suggesting no clear design), recounts the presence of scattered remains, and reminds us again that *even this late the City of Columbia maintained a burial register for the cemetery.*

Curiously, *The State* found it more scandalous that two bodies would be buried in one grave than that the conditions of the

cemetery itself were deplorable ("The Potter's Field Scandal," *The State*, February 24, 1910, pg. 4).

Beyond this we have been able to identify only occasional news articles about burials conducted in Lower Cemetery. An August 16, 1912 article describes the burial of an infant found drowned in the Columbia Canal, while a February 2, 1915 article describes the burial of infant thrown from the northbound Southeastern limited train.

Aerial Images of Lower Cemetery

The earliest aerial image of Lower Cemetery dates from 1938. In spite of the poor image quality, it gives us a very impressive view of the cemetery while it was still an active part of Columbia society.

The entrance is a dirt road at the end of Elmwood,

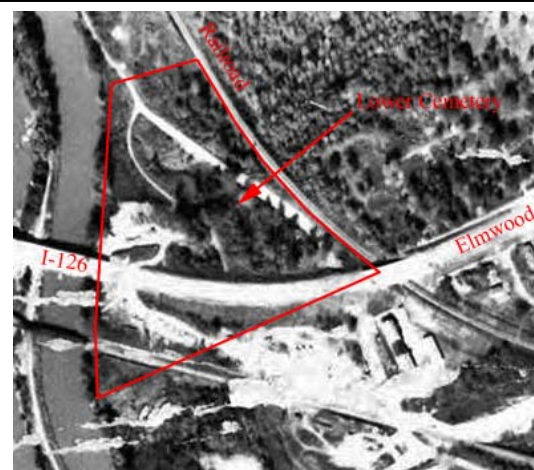


Figure 11. Aerial image of Lower Cemetery from 1959, showing the damage caused by the first phase of I-126.

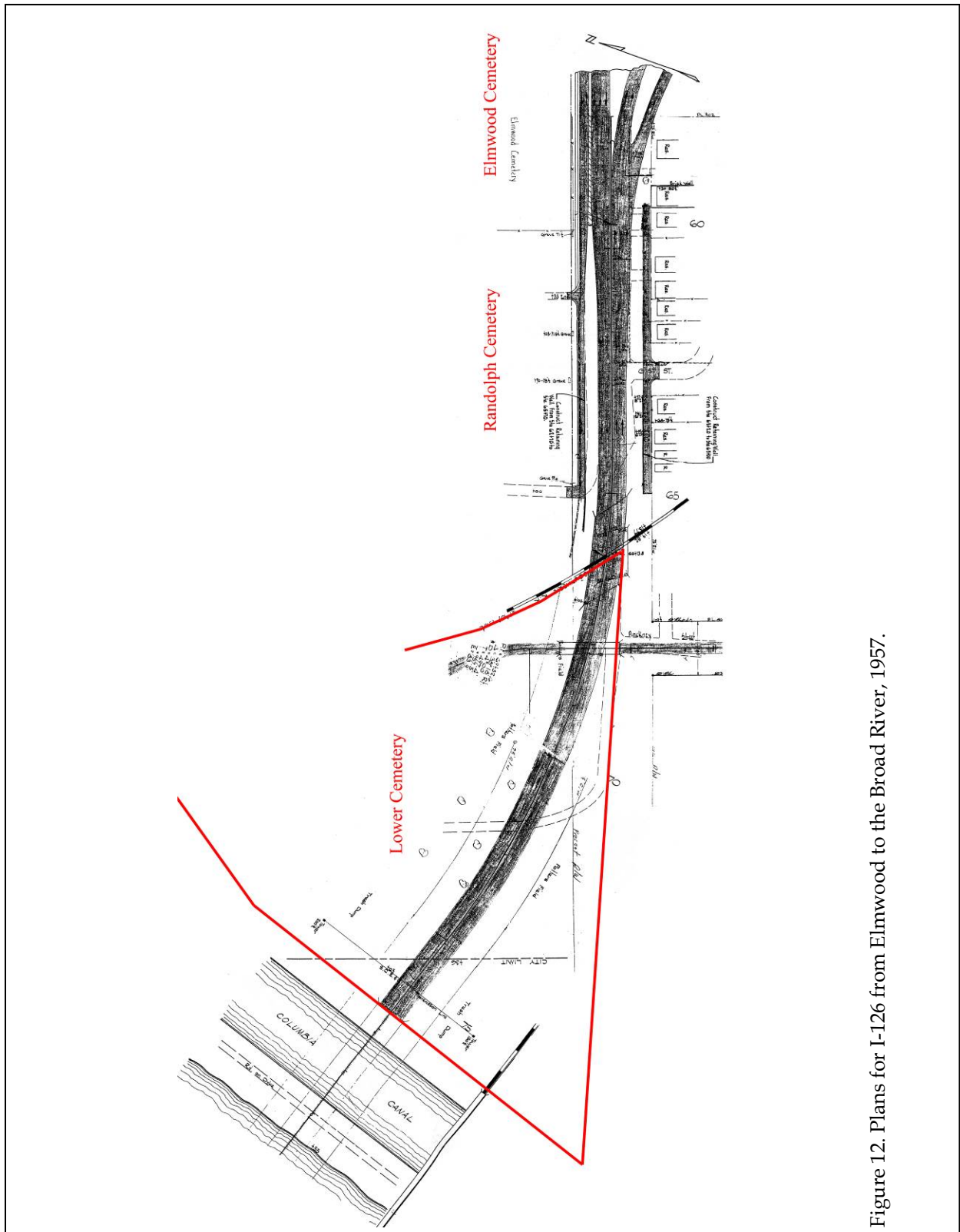


Figure 12. Plans for I-126 from Elmwood to the Broad River, 1957.

which was still dirt itself. The railroad that sought – and received – permission to cross potter's field in 1887 is shown cutting across the southwest corner of the cemetery. The main road continues northward through potter's field, paralleling the edge of the Columbia Canal until it turns east into the property held by the South Carolina State Penitentiary. Cutting off from this main road is a one-lane road that creates four north-south oriented sections. They range from about 275 to 240 feet in length and from about 90

growth – probably the vines and broom corn mentioned in 1910.

The landscape changed dramatically by 1959, primarily the result of the construction of the Elmwood Bridge over the Columbia Canal and Broad River. This first leg of I-126 cut through the lower half of the cemetery, bisecting it as shown in Figure 11. Figure 12 shows the original highway plans (SC State Highway Department Docket No. 40.471, FAP No. I-340-1 (2), dated 1957). This work obliterated the four sections visible since the 1939 aerial and probably removed about 2 acres of the cemetery.

This process began with an Act of the General Assembly authorizing the City of Columbia to enter into an agreement with the State Highway Department for construction across potter's field. The act

Name(s)	Death Date	Notes
Henry Bedell	n.d.	
Andrew & Julie Grant	n.d.	
Samuel McJunkin	n.d.	
Harrison Jones	1864	
Lydia Pope	1873	b. 2/1870, daughter of John & Nancy Pope of Columbia, African American
Kitty & Jacob Colfrey	1873	Last name may have been Coltry according to census, African American
Amy Jones	1879	
Hall	1901	
John Johnson	1905	

to 110 feet in width. Each is about 0.6 acre, so the area within this road grid was about 2.5 acres. The area to the south would add an additional 2 acres – coming close to *The State's* account of the cemetery being about 5 acres in 1910. If the area east of the main road is included, the cemetery becomes more nearly 10 acres. It is difficult to determine how far north burials extended before the trash dump was encountered, but it is likely that there was at least another acre forming the northern fringe (the red outline in Figure 9 includes both the cemetery and, we believe, the dump area).

A much better aerial image is available from 1951 and the cemetery appears remarkably unaltered from 12 years earlier. The road network is identical, although the dump area is less conspicuous by this time. Vegetation consists of several dozen large evergreens, with the remainder of the tract in dense understory

required publication of the proposed relocation and, failing to hear from any descendants, the “department shall be at liberty to proceed with the construction of the work and to remove the bodies known to be buried within the area, together with any stones or markers to some suitable place nearby” (*An Act to Authorize the City of Columbia and the State Highway Department to enter into an Agreement for the Construction of a Highway Across Potter's Field in the City of Columbia*, signed by the governor, March 16, 1956).

While such was, and is, standard for South Carolina, the act goes further, stating, “the relatives of all persons buried within such area who fail to express in writing their wishes for the disposition of such bodies shall be deemed to have abandoned such graves.” The act also prevented a judge from staying the removal of the graves. It also required judges involved in

any dispute to require private parties to “show cause why the bodies of the deceased persons in question should not be removed to some suitable cemetery or burying ground, or such other disposition be made with reference thereto as the judge before whom the rule is returnable, may seem just and proper.” In all respects the act was intended to quickly allow the removal of the dead in Lower Cemetery.

With the act signed, the highway department advertised in *The State* newspaper,

the Bureau of Vital Statistics requesting permission for the removal. Schwerin is locally known for being assigned bids on a number of cemetery removals across South Carolina and was an embalmer who lived in Charleston.

Unfortunately, the highway department files do not include any information on Schwerin’s work. There is no information on the number of burials identified, where these graves were found, any remains associated with the graves, or even where the graves were eventually reburied.

One account reports that “the Highway Department located some 150 graves, but exhumed over 300 burials. Some graves were found to contain two or more layers of remains and more graves were found which were not visible on the ground surface. Probably as many as 500 burials were in the area covered by I-26, for some had disintegrated past recognition” (Anonymous n.d.:2).

When I-126 was widened in 1976 yet more of Lower Cemetery was impacted. The additional lanes were located south of the original construction, perhaps removing an additional 1.5 acres of the cemetery.

While we have been unable to obtain any details from the highway department, some information is available from news accounts. In one the cemetery is described as unmarked and apparently no pre-construction work was done to remove the graves, resulting in the burials being encountered during construction. Eventually these remains were removed by James R. Baker, a funeral home director from Great Falls, South Carolina (“Secrets Buried in Unmarked Graves,” *Columbia Record*, April 2, 1986, pg. 1A).

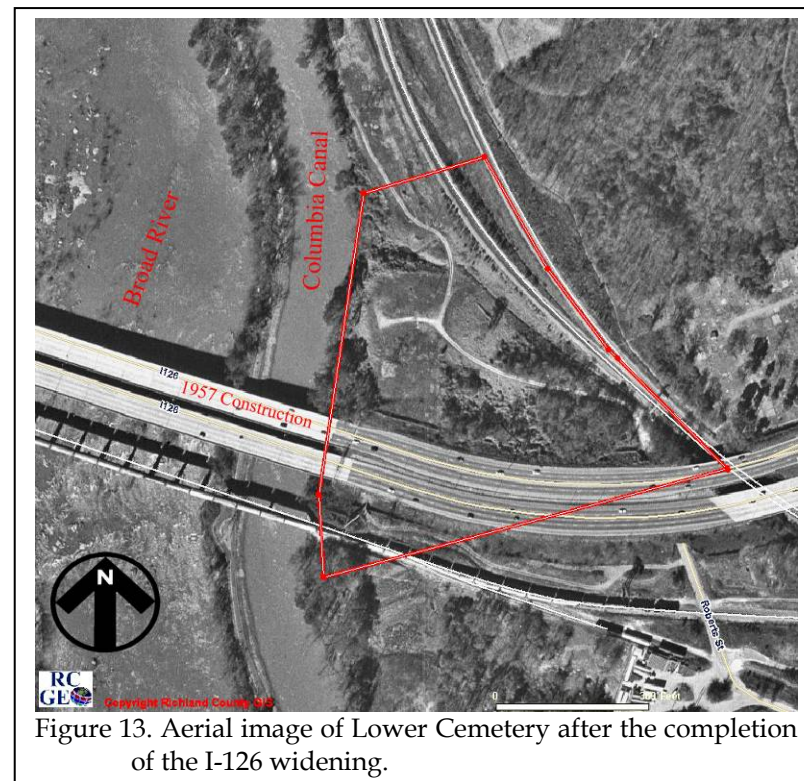


Figure 13. Aerial image of Lower Cemetery after the completion of the I-126 widening.

identifying nine individuals for whom markers were apparently identified (Table 1). There were, in addition, approximately 11 additional graves recognized. Clearly no one involved with the project attempted to do even the most cursory historical research.

On March 10, 1957 the highway department advertised for licensed embalmers and undertakers to bid on the project and by March 27, 1957 Julius A. Schwerin, Jr. of Aiken had been granted the project and was writing to

While again we have no idea of where the original graves were located, we do know that approximately 692 individuals were reburied and the individual responsible for the work reported that "there were skeletal remains, casket handles and other artifacts that were reburied" ("Secrets Buried in Unmarked Graves," *Columbia Record*, April 2, 1986, pg. 1A).

Another account explains that during the 1976 work the cemetery was assumed to be part of potter's field:

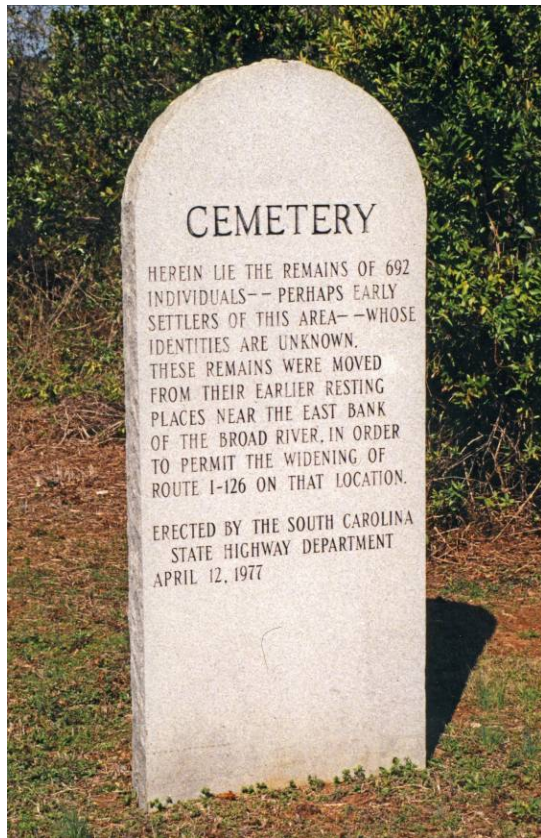


Figure 14. Granite monument erected to mark the location of the reinterment from the 1976 Lower Cemetery exhumations.

Until buried tombstones were found – one to the Rev. Joshua Smith, late minister of the Methodist Church, whose congregation provided a fine

marble tombstone when he died in 1859. Another monument, a marble obelisk marking Charles Brown's grave showed that people of means were buried here. The first grave opened revealed elaborate coffin handles which would never have been on a casket buried in a potter's field (Anonymous n.d.:2).

This account suggests that the southern portion of Lower Cemetery, removed by the Highway Department in 1976, may have been where the remains from the second public cemetery were relocated in 1881. It was, however, certainly intermingled with primary burials from the late nineteenth and perhaps even early twentieth centuries. This is based on the account of Charles Brown's obelisk. This was almost certainly Charles O. Brown, a Columbia planter and merchant born about 1850 who died between 1910 and 1920. This indicates that Lower Cemetery was being used as a public burial ground into the early twentieth century – although over time it has been far more closely associated with pauper burials. It would also make sense that Lower Cemetery began at the foot of Roberts Street and extended northward.

Burials from the second relocation were moved to a mass grave just north of the penitentiary cemetery. Although the area is marked with a granite stone, the actual burial locations can be discerned with only close observation. A series of narrow trenches today mark the location of these remains (Trinkley and Hacker 2009:18).

Death Certificate Research

Unfortunately the death certificate and burial information being collected by Columbia for much of the late nineteenth century has disappeared. No one today remembers the burial journals spoken about frequently in city council minute books (the council minutes even

contain the invoice for printing the journals – so it is certain that they existed). Whether maintained by the city health department or the city registrar (today the city clerk), these books

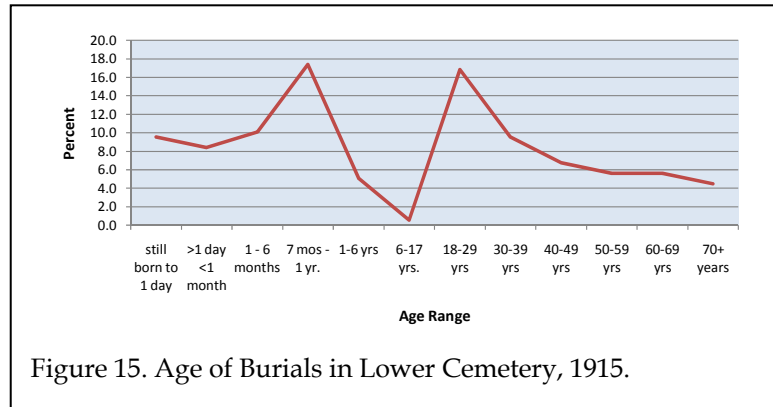


Figure 15. Age of Burials in Lower Cemetery, 1915.

have vanished – and with them historical information that is incalculable.

In 1915 South Carolina began collecting death data with a mandatory death certificate. These certificates, however, were not uniformly prepared or collected for at least several years. However, the data provides us with our only glimpse of who was being buried at Lower Cemetery.

While the Columbia Chapter of the S.C. Genealogical Society collected death certificate data relating to other cemeteries in the area, Lower Cemetery was ignored – perhaps because of its “pauper” status.

Consequently, as part of this research the death certificates for the cemetery were collected from 1915, 1925, 1935, 1945, and 1955 – providing at least a sample of those buried in Lower Cemetery during the twentieth century. This information is provided in Appendix 1. Here we will simply examine the number of burials and the demographics of those who found their way to the cemetery.

It seems clear that by the twentieth century the use of Lower was already declining. In 1915, for example, the 167 burials in Lower Cemetery represented only 10.1% of the burials in Richland County. By 1925 the number of burials in Lower Cemetery dropped to 75, representing 4.7% of the burials. By 1955 there were only three burials, representing 0.1% of the Richland County deaths. During the twentieth century the bulk of those using Lower Cemetery were African American and we believe the decline in its popularity is at least partially the result of local African American funeral homes opening their own cemeteries – such as Crescent Hill, Lincoln, and Palmetto.

In 1915 the typical individual buried in Lower Cemetery was African American (representing 94% of the burials) and male (55%). Most of the burials were conducted by Hardy, Pinckney & Briggs (44%), an African American undertaking firm in Columbia. As Table 2 reveals, most of those buried were 7 months to a year, with the next most common age peak at 18-29 years. These two peaks represent those periods when infants were no longer afforded protection by their mother’s breast milk and when young people were most

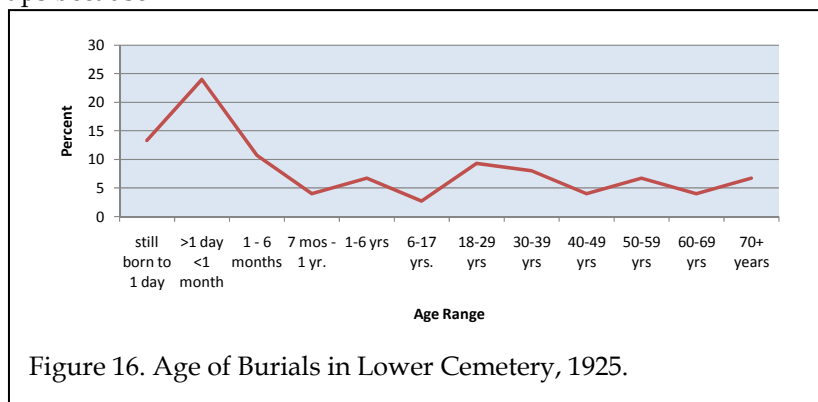


Figure 16. Age of Burials in Lower Cemetery, 1925.

often at risk of occupational accidents. Nevertheless, the data reveals that a very large number of burials (10%) were either stillborns or premature infants who lived only hours or days.

Fully 54% of the burials in Lower Cemetery were children.

The top causes of death, as listed on the death certificate, included pneumonia (12%), tuberculosis (9%), premature birth (8%), colitis (7%), and stroke (5%; tied with pellagra).

Of the adults buried in Lower Cemetery, the most common occupation was that of laborer (10%), followed by domestic (8%; when cook, houseworker, washerwoman, and nurse are added this category increases to 19%).

By 1925 the number using Lower Cemetery had declined, but the profile was still very similar. Whites using the cemetery increased to 15%, although African Americans still dominated the graveyard (85%). Most of those buried were males (56%).

Whites were buried either by Dunbar or McCormick. The primary African American firm was the Johnson-Bradley-Morris firm, who buried 40% of those using Lower Cemetery and nearly 47% of the African Americans. In 1915 only 1% of the burials were interred by the family; in 1925 that figure had doubled to 2%.

Table 3 shows a shift in the death age of individuals buried in Lower Cemetery by 1925. The peak is now those infants less than a month

perhaps suggesting either improvements in medical attention or increase job safety.

Regardless, children still comprise the majority of those buried at Lower Cemetery (59%) and this alone may suggest that those using the property were of limited means and unable to afford a more costly burial. Of the adults using the cemetery, laborers comprised 14% and domestics 11%.

There were also some notable changes in the listed cause of death. For example, premature listings increased from 8% in 1915 to 23% in 1925, perhaps signifying the increased use of Lower Cemetery for the burial of infants, especially those with very short lives. Tuberculosis was more common (15%) than pneumonia (11%). Colitis was still a significant cause of death for children (8%), but stroke was replaced by heart related ailments (which accounted for 6%).

Of the 62 individuals buried in Lower Cemetery in 1935, 61 were African American. Males comprised 53% of the total. Manigault, an African American establishment, was the most common funeral home, burying nearly a quarter of those using the cemetery. Other significant undertaking establishments were Johnson-Bradley (19%), T.H. Pinckney (19%), Pearson (15%), and Leevy (14%).

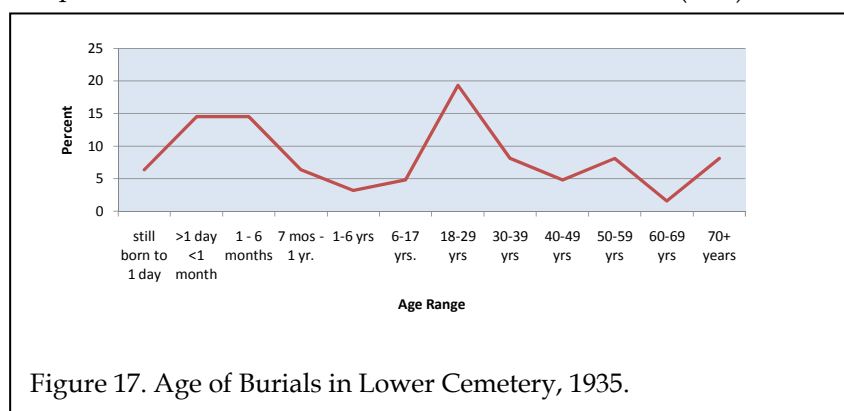


Figure 17. Age of Burials in Lower Cemetery, 1935.

in age, with a decline in the numbers dying from that point on. There is only a very minor rise in adult deaths between the ages of 18 and 29,

Pneumonia was the most common cause of death among those buried in Lower Cemetery in 1935 (24%), followed by heart disease (19%), and premature (9%). Tuberculosis accounted for only 3% of the deaths. Two cases were reported of death by Celiac disease, an inherited, autoimmune disease in which the lining of the small intestine

is damaged from eating gluten and other proteins found in wheat, barley, rye, and

HISTORIC SYNOPSIS

possibly oats. Both diagnoses were made by the same private physician – H.D. Montieth.

Finally, by 1935 the death age again shows two peaks – one at a day to less than 6 months representing the impact of early childhood disease and illness and the second at 18-29 years representing occupational influences. Causes of death for this age group included pneumonia, tuberculosis, syphilis, burns, and a gunshot.

Analysis of the burials from 1945 is problematic since there were only 14. All of these were African Americans and 12 (85.7%) were under a year of age. All were buried by one of five African American funeral homes.

By 1955 the three individuals buried in Lower Cemetery were still all African Americans, but all three were buried by one African American mortuary, Pearson. Moreover, while one of the three was a child, the other two were adult males – one 56 years old and the other 62.

FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

While the preceding discussions clearly reveal that Lower Cemetery was well known during the first half of the twentieth century, the burial grounds gradually faded from the memory of most Columbians during the latter half of the century. It wasn't until 1981 that Lower Cemetery was first recorded as an archaeological site.

In a brief examination of the proposed Riverfront Park and the Columbia Canal, Michael Harmon recorded the "Potter's Field" as 38RD227 (Harmon 1981:2). He estimated the site incorporated about 4.45 acres and identified two specific areas. The first (Locus A) is described as "undisturbed" and situated in a wooded area bound by I-126. In this area he reported 22 marked graves "and several hundred unmarked graves." Locus B was apparently situated in the transmission line corridor. Harmon noted that human remains were identified in three shovel tests. He recommended that the site required "additional study in order to define the area" (Harmon 1981:4).

The site was mentioned by Harvey and Poplin (2000), although this more recent report only recounted the information from the earlier field study and no new information was provided.

In February 2001 Chicora archaeologists revisited 38RD227 in order to better define site boundaries and record the graves previously noted to still exist. During that assessment the site was estimated to include about 4.8 acres, with all of the examined cemetery being situated north of I-126. Four distinct areas were identified. The first consisted of three marked graves forming a family plot, the second was an area of grave depressions and grave plantings,

the third was the area of 22 marked graves and additional unmarked burials, and the fourth was an area of grave depressions still visible in the SCE&G powerline easement.

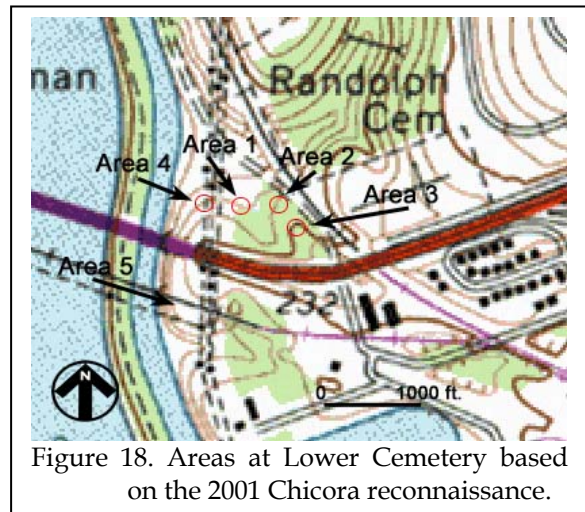


Figure 18. Areas at Lower Cemetery based on the 2001 Chicora reconnaissance.

Area 1

The plot that comprises Area 1 is still being maintained, with the kudzu that overtakes much of Lower Cemetery being periodically mowed. All three of the memorials are made from cast concrete and all show evidence of cracking and deterioration. One has been toppled, but is still legible.

In the center of the plot is a concrete tablet with the information hand scribed. At the top are three chain links, the symbol of the Odd Fellows. Below is WAYMAN / 1339 / WILLIAM / BEACHUM / BORN JULY. 4, 1854 / DIED JAN. 26, 1885. It is likely that the Wayman 1339 was the Odd Fellows lodge.

To the left is a round, log-shaped monument set upright. At the top of the stump is 1857 / EVONIA BEACH[UM] / 1911.



Figure 19. View of the Beachum plot in Area 1.

The third monument, displaced to the right of the first, is the third concrete monument, inscribed, EUGENE / BEACHUM / BORN 1893 / DIED 1899.

Although there are a number of Beachams found in both the Columbia City Directories and US Census after 1900, we have been unable to find any of the individuals identified in this plot (with their names spelled "Beachum").

Area 2

Area 2 exhibits two clusters of marker plants, including vinca and yucca. While it is possible there are also sunken graves or perhaps even marked graves, the area is very heavily overgrown and none were observed during the brief examination.

Area 3

At least 21 marked graves have been identified in this area of Lower Cemetery. The graves include:

1. Molded concrete, NORIEAN JOHNSON / BORN / JULY 28, 1898 / DIED / MAY 2, 1899

2. Carved marble headstone, JOHN JOHNSON / Age 72 yrs / Died Feb. 3, 1905 / He was faithful to every / duty. / He was a noble Christian man.

We have identified several John Johnson's in Columbia City Directories for 1875, 1879, 1888, and 1891, but it is impossible to determine if any are this particular individual. The 1900 census, however, identifies an African

American individual who was the approximate age. He is listed as a widower. No occupation is



Figure 20. Area 2 showing some of the plants typically associated with graves.

listed.

3. Carved marble headstone, JENNY ALGOOD / A faithful servant of / Thos. Boynes family / Died March 8th 1868 / Aged about 80 years / There is rest for the weary.

While we have not identified a Jenny Algood in the city directories, this was likely an

African American who worked in the Boyne household – perhaps since slavery. Boyne was a stonecutter who, in 1860, listed eight slaves at his Columbia residence. He appears again in the 1880 census where he is listed as a Scottish marble cutter. The 1859 City Directory listed Boyne as living at 60 Richardson (Main) and operating his marble yard at Richardson and Laurel under the name Boyne & Sproul. This marble yard continued at least into the 1880s, under the name Mathew & Son.

4. Small carved marble headstone, THOMAS H. / WILLIAMS. / Born June 14 / 1867, died Jan [sic] / 30, 1876, aged / 9 yrs. & 7 mos.

5. Small carved marble headstone, JULIA & / ANDREW / GRANT / 1908.

6. Carved marble headstone, IN MEMORY OF / AMY JONES / who was killed by the / Rail Road Train near / Cola. On 26, Aug. 1879. / Behold, where breathing / love devine, / Our dying Master stands. Also a footstone, A.J.

The *Columbia Register* of August 27, 1879 recounts how the Charlotte, Columbia, and Augusta passenger train “struck a colored woman, and threw her down an embankment, killing her instantly” about 3 miles from Columbia. An inquest, held the following day, found that “the deceased came to her death by misfortune or accident” (“Coroner’s Inquest,” *Columbia Register*, August 28, 1879). This article, however, refers to the woman as Amy Carter.

7. Small marble headstone, amateurishly carved, JO.

8. Carved marble headstone, JACK / HENRY / Born Oct. 16th 1808 / Died June 19th 1870. Also present is an uncarved marble footstone.

9. A marble ledger in three fragments, TO / THE MEMORY OF / HARRIET / OUR OLD AND FAITHFUL NURSE / WHO DIED / SEPTEMBER 7TH 1858 / Blessed are the pure in

heart / for they shall see GOD. / tablet is erected by / R.J.M., M.H.M., & W.H.M.

10. Carved marble headstone, EMMA A. / Wife of / C. Hutchinson / Died Oct. 16, 1904 / Aged 44 years. / She was a member / of Zion Baptist Church. Also a marble footstone, E.A.H.

While membership in Zion Baptist Church clearly indicates that this person was an African American, we have not been able to identify any match in the census records. There is a Chester Hutchinson listed in the 1905 City Directory, although his wife is not listed. If this is the husband of Emma, his occupation was listed as a laborer and the residence was 1004 Washington Street.

11. Carved marble, KITEY COLTREY, Was born Dec. 12 / 1871. and Died / Jany. 6, 1873. JAGOR COLTREY / Was born Feb. 13 / 1868. and died / Jany. 28, 1873. Also present is a footstone, K.C. / J.C.

12. Carved marble, LYDIA / Daughter of / J. and N. Pope / Died Jan. 11, 1873 / Aged 2 yr. 11 mos.

All three individuals are identified in the 1870 census and consist of John and Nancy Pope, both African Americans, and their daughter, Lidia. Also in the household was James, a 2-year old. The 1880 census identifies John Pope as a bricklayer.

13. Small carved marble, J.A.

14. Carved marble, Mr. GADSON PEARDOWN / Died Nov. 13, 1867. Aged 48 years. / He died in peace, / [] from his labors.

We have found an Emma Peardown, a 55-year old mulatto listed in the 1880 census and recorded as the daughter of 75-year old Epsey Mitchell. It is likely that Emma was the widow of Gadson and the 1880 census indicates that she was a servant.

15. Carved marble headstone, ELIJAH DAVIS / DIED / Jan. 2, 1905; / Aged 27 years. Also an uncarved marble footstone, as well as an uncarved marble dresser top set as a headstone.

The 1905 City Directory lists an Elijah Davis as a porter at the clothing store of A. David. Davis' residence is listed as rear 909



Figure 21. Example of one of the marble headstones found in Area 3 of Lower Cemetery.

Washington Street. He does not, however, appear in the federal census.

16. Carved marble headstone, SACRED / to the memory / of / HARRISON JONES / who died May / 30th 1811 aged / 52 years / Well done / faithful / servant gone / to thy / reward in / Heaven.

17. Carved marble obelisk, fallen, J.W. HALL / DIED / Aug. 24, 1901 / Aged 56 yrs. / He is gone to the land / where the weary, / Enjoy the sweet rapture / of sacred repose.

We have found no likely individual in the federal census records. The 1895 City Directory does list a white J.W. Hall who was a Columbia policeman. He lived at 1528 Lincoln Street.

18. Carved marble headstone, MISS LUCY JOHNSON / Died June 27, 1886 / Aged 17 years.

This is almost certainly the daughter of Andrew and Joanna Johnson who were listed in the 1880 census. He was an African American carpenter and she listed as keeping house. They had eight children. Lucy was the second oldest; her sister Laura, 18 years old in 1880, was listed as a servant.

19. Small carved marble headstone, JULIUS MITCHELL.

Surprisingly, we have found only one individual with this name in the census. The 1880 census lists Julius Mitchell, a 19 year old mulatto, as the nephew of Holland and Andella Mitchell, African Americans living on Richland Street. Holland, 60 years old, was a tailor, while Julius was listed as an apprentice tailor. Julius Mitchell could not be identified in the 1900 census, suggesting that his death occurred prior to that year.

20. Recycled marble stone, carved, J.H.

21. Three inch square marble with no carving.

Thus, all of the burials that can be clearly identified are of African Americans. They represent a variety of social levels, and both blacks and mulattos are present. Similarly both young and old are found in this section of Lower Cemetery. Of special interest are several individuals who appear to have been buried (or at least the grave was marked) by their white owners or, in the postbellum, employers.

This is the portion of Lower Cemetery that has been taken over by several homeless camps. The presence of these camps is likely to cause irreparable damage to graves and grave markers. The City bears the responsibility for



Figure 22. SCE&G corridor through Lower Cemetery showing undulating topography and individual sunken graves. View to the southeast.

ensuring that this area is properly maintained and not allowed to be destroyed.

Area 4

This is a very large, open area of the cemetery crossed by SCE&G power lines. The area is often covered in dense kudzu, but when the vegetation dies back in the winter individual

grave depressions are still distinctly visible throughout the area. This is the area shown as having laid out roads in the aerial photographs of 1938 and 1951 (Figures 8 and 9).

While some damage has certainly been done by utility line construction and line maintenance, this portion of the cemetery likely contains several thousand burials and the potential for the recovery of human remains is quite high. This is also the area where shovel testing by Harmon in the early 1980s produced human remains (Harmon 1981:2).

Area 5

This is the portion of Lower Cemetery still extant to the south of I-126. It is the least explored portion of the cemetery and the extent of damage by the interstate has never been determined. Figure 24

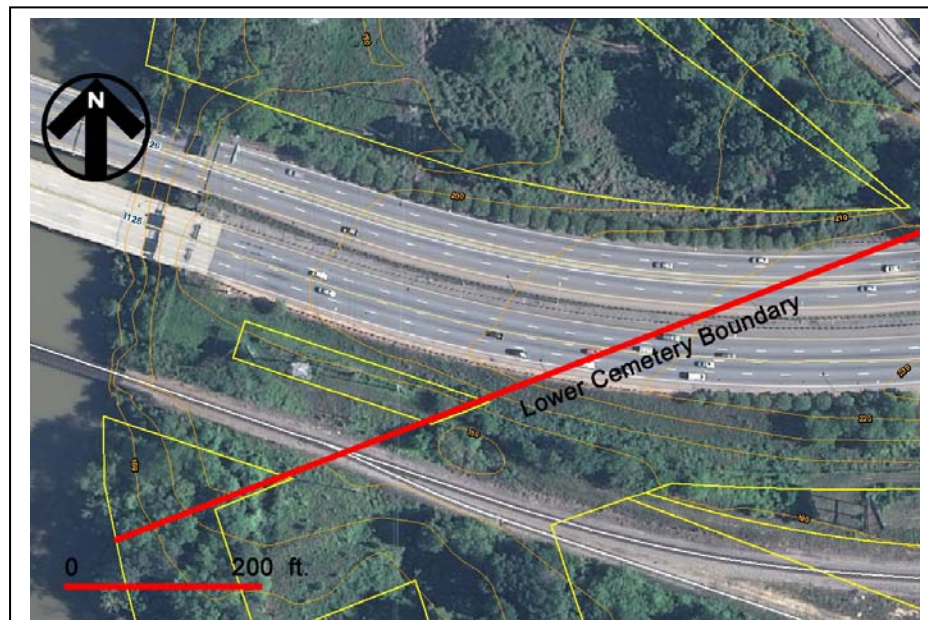


Figure 23. Aerial image with topography for the portion of Lower Cemetery south of I-126.



Figure 24. View of Lower Cemetery, Area 5, south of I-126.

reveals that considerable fill has been added, so that elevations of 190 feet and above along the edge of the highway almost certainly represent fill sections. There is, however, a level terrace of about 180 feet above mean sea level to the north and south of the railroad line where the cemetery may still exhibit good integrity. The area is wooded and there is little damage or loss of integrity. Beyond this the terrace drops to the west, into the Columbia Canal and to the south, toward a gully or slough.

CONCLUSIONS

Columbia's Public Cemetery, by Any Other Name

Words are powerful and the Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis deals with the impact of language on our ways of perceiving reality. Anthropologists and linguists generally agree that language is neither neutral nor an innocent participant in human interactions. Language carries a heavy load of assumptions regarding its users, what is expected from them, and even the contexts in which they live. Language involves bias and centricity (ego-, ethno-, Anglo- and so forth) and each of our words may carry some determinate fragment of our sociocultural worldview.

Thus, the terms used to identify Lower Cemetery by Columbia's city council, the media, and period observers do not seem to be either mistakes or coincidences. Terms such as "potter's field," "pauper cemetery," and "negro cemetery" were routinely used – even though it seems reasonable to presume the writers and speakers knew that the cemetery included both rich and poor, black and white.

We argue that these terms served to devalue the cemetery and provided the justification for ignoring the property. These terms made it easier to allow the railroad to cross over the cemetery, to permit garbage to be stored immediately adjacent to the property, to ignore the public responsibility for maintaining the property, and even to allow the same ground to be buried over multiple times.

Through a complex process of bias and centricity it became acceptable for Columbia's city council to absolve itself of maintenance and ignore societal responsibilities for the care of the dead. For example, city council could proclaim the importance of a "decent burial" while at the

same time using the city budget as an excuse to avoid cleaning the cemetery. Even occasional newspaper descriptions of the cemetery failed to stir the public into action.

We believe that had Lower Cemetery been called the "City Cemetery," or perhaps even the "Public Burying Grounds," the property would not have suffered the level of abuse and desecration it has over the past 100 years.

Certainly the facts as shown by death certificates reveal that Lower Cemetery was only occasionally used by true paupers (the "hobo" buried in 1925, for example). Other than children, those buried at Lower Cemetery were employed and seemingly productive members of Columbia's society. True, they were poor – in many cases probably too poor to afford burial in either Randolph or Douglas cemeteries, the only other locations for African Americans to be buried during the first half of the twentieth century. Yet is poverty an acceptable excuse for the lack of basic human dignity shown those buried in Columbia's city cemetery?

It is far more accurate – and respectful – to use the term Lower Cemetery or describe the location as Columbia's third public cemetery.

The Origin of the Cemetery

Although the historical evidence is inconclusive, the property had to be available at least ca. 1881, when the second public cemetery was closed by the city and sold to the Wilmington, Columbia and Augusta Railroad. This is consistent with an ordinance specific to the City Cemetery enacted in 1885.

It is likely, however, that Lower Cemetery was available and being actively used

by ca. 1860. In 1863 Dutch Rose was buried at "Tickleberry." There are, in addition, burials in Area 3 that document this early use. For example, Jenny Algood who died in 1868, Harriett who died in 1858, and Gadson Peardown who died in 1867 are all found in the cemetery.

The earliest marked grave in Area 3 is that of the "faithful servant" Harrison Jones, who died in 1811. This suggests that at least some of the monuments from Columbia's second public burying ground were moved to Lower Cemetery.

The Boundaries

While it may be difficult to determine precisely when burials began, the boundaries of the cemetery are more easily defined. For example, the southern boundary can be estimated based on the 1887 intrusion by the Newberry & Laurens Railroad. These rail lines are still extant and reveal that the cemetery extended south of the railroad bridge. In fact, some of the property lines precisely follow the southern boundary of the cemetery as shown on the 1887 railroad drawing.

The eastern boundary of the cemetery is defined by the adjacent railroad lines. We have extended the cemetery to the extant railroad, although it may have terminated at the western edge of the earlier tracks. Additional research is needed here to better define building episodes and where bodies may be situated.

The western boundary of Lower Cemetery is defined by the Columbia Canal.

Finally, the northern boundary is perhaps the least well understood. Although we know that a garbage dump was located in this area, we cannot assume that the city avoided the cemetery. We have tentatively drawn the boundary to avoid the most obvious dump area shown in the 1938 aerial, but this boundary must also be further studied.

With these boundaries in mind the cemetery is approximately 10.7 acres. Of this, I-126 and the rail line have destroyed about 4.5 acres. This leaves approximately 6.2 acres relatively undisturbed.

Eligibility

While there are certainly unresolved issues surrounding the cemetery, it is our professional opinion that Lower Cemetery is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places at a local level of significance.

The cemetery represents the third - and only remaining - public cemetery used by the City of Columbia, dating from ca. 1860 through at least 1955. The cemetery was formally incorporated into Columbia's ordinances for at least 30 years and perhaps longer (the cemetery didn't disappear from the ordinances until 1933; the 1935 death certificate research shows that there were still 63 burials in Lower Cemetery that year).

The cemetery was used for the burial of rich and poor, black and white. It was even used for the burial of Confederate soldiers who died in Columbia. The cemetery may hold some of the markers, if not the actual graves, from Columbia's second public burying grounds. Several of the documented stones reveal memorialization of African American servants who worked for white families in Columbia both before and after the civil war. Thus, the cemetery presents an exceptional array of social classes and personalities.

Lower Cemetery is recommended eligible under Criterion A, association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. In this case, Lower Cemetery represents a distinct stage in the evolution of Columbia's cemeteries, documenting the move to shift cemeteries beyond the corporate limits in order to protect and preserve the public health. The cemetery also documents an effort by the city to maintain

CONCLUSIONS

a public – as opposed to private – cemetery for the use of Columbia’s residents. The cemetery’s history documents efforts to organize the cemetery, protect it from incursions, and formalize burial practices. The cemetery documents Columbia’s efforts to deal with pauper burials generated by a variety of public and private institutions, including the State Asylum, Richland County, and various public hospitals. It contrasts with the rise of Elmwood Cemetery and the Rural Cemetery Movement as seen in Columbia, with the desire to maintain a public cemetery documenting the conservative nature of Columbia and her residents.

Lower Cemetery is recommended eligible under Criterion C, as the cemetery embodies the distinctive characteristics of the public city cemetery. This is evidenced by the ordinances enacted, especially those relating to the presence of the city sexton and that individual’s duty to ensure proper burial practices. The characteristics of the cemetery are well documented by period newspapers that recount the use of the property several times over, with burials being placed on top of pre-existing burials, a common feature in public burying grounds.

Finally, Lower Cemetery is also recommended eligible under Criterion D, information potential. Several sources (including archaeological shovel testing and accounts of burial removals) clearly indicate the presence of both human remains and coffin/casket furniture. The former can be used to document mortuary practices, diet, disease, and paleopathology of late nineteenth to early twentieth century populations in the City of Columbia. The latter can be used to document and explore questions important in the study of material culture and social history. The correlation of death certificate data with bioanthropological research provides an unprecedented opportunity to explore a mixed population in a small Southern town.

Lower Cemetery meets Criteria Consideration D, since its primary significance results from its distinctive design features, as an example of a city cemetery – and the only one remaining for the City of Columbia. Moreover, Lower Cemetery embodies the folkways, burial customs, and traditions of Columbia’s working poor – both black and white. While these individuals represented the majority of Columbia’s late nineteenth and early twentieth century population, their history is not well documented in other resources.

Of course no criteria considerations are needed under Criterion D, information potential. Lower Cemetery has the ability to provide documentation of the health and welfare of Columbia’s working poor in a way that no other resource is able. This is perhaps most clearly revealed by the large number of individuals documented as buried in Lower Cemetery through their markers who cannot be identified in either city directories or the federal census. Even into the twentieth century towns like Columbia contained large populations of invisible people – both black and white – who have failed to attract the attention of most historians.

Although Lower Cemetery has been affected by the construction of I-126 and transmission towers, it retains considerable integrity. Allowing a vegetative buffer along I-126 to shield the cemetery from both visual and noise intrusion (as evidenced by Figure 23), the remainder of the property continues to convey the setting characteristic of its use during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It remains secluded and isolated from Columbia even today. Moreover the rolling topography continues to convey the image of a heavily used cemetery. The unpaved, rutted roads continue to convey the image of a property given little attention or care by the wealthy of the community. The patches of yucca and bulb plants further convey the effort by families to soften the landscape and provide some memory of their loved ones.

Perhaps most critically, outside of the recent construction of I-126, Lower Cemetery continues to exhibit archaeological integrity. There has been no significant compromise to the property's ability to address bioanthropological research questions. There has been no significant ground disturbance or previous investigations at the cemetery. There are no "improvements" and the property can be documented, using aerial photographs, as it was during the 1930s.

What Must Be Done to Preserve the Cemetery?

There are two critical issues that must be addressed for the long-term preservation of Lower Cemetery. The first is the inappropriate use of the cemetery by the homeless. The area is being used for camps because it is secluded, out of the public's eye, and lacks any effort by the City to prevent these camps. The second significant concern is the dense vegetation that hides inappropriate uses, discourages appropriate use, and serves to damage marked graves.

The City must reclaim this property. A combined effort by the City of Columbia Police and the City Solid Waste forces are necessary to relocate the homeless and remove their camps. This must then be followed by the City Public Works Department clearing the cemetery of vegetation, including trees under 2-inches dbh and vines, especially the kudzu that has taken over much of the property. Public Works, perhaps in association with the SC Department of Highways must also address the graffiti and trash that has been allowed to build up in the I-126 underpass accessing the cemetery.

The City must then establish a maintenance schedule for the proper care of this property. This will require periodic Police patrols and vegetative maintenance programs.

The City should also coordinate with SCE&G to ensure that the utility's maintenance activities do not endanger the cemetery.

The City, perhaps in association with the Downtown Columbia Cemetery Task Force, must also fund historic signage for Lower Cemetery, acknowledging its importance to the community and history of Columbia. Even more critical, however, is to rezone Lower Cemetery from RG-2 -DD (General Residential, Design Development) to RG-2, -DD, -DP (General Residential, Design Development, Design Preservation). This same step was taken at adjacent Randolph Cemetery in 2008. This step should be taken in conjunction with a request to the Columbia Design/Development Review Commission to create a design preservation overlay for Lower Cemetery to designate the property to Tier I Landmark Status. A precedent has also been established for this step by Randolph Cemetery.

These steps will help ensure that Lower Cemetery remains protected and recognized as a historic site in the City of Columbia. It will also help prevent future commercial and transportation incursions into the cemetery. It will also help minimize future visual intrusions, such as the existing SCE&G powerline towers.

SOURCES CITED

- Anonymous
n.d. Tickleberry Hill Prison Cemetery Tract Adjoining Elmwood Cemetery, Columbia, S.C. Ms. on file, SC Budget and Control Board, Property Files, Columbia.
- 1919 *The Revised Ordinances of the City of Columbia, S.C.* R.L. Bryan Co., Columbia.
- Cooper, Thomas
1839 *Statues of South Carolina*, vol. 5: 1786-1814. A.S. Johnson, Columbia.
- Edmunds, H.N.
1907 *The Revised Ordinances of the City of Columbia, S.C.* R.L. Bryan Co., Columbia.
- Harmon, Michal A.
1981 *Columbia Riverfront Park and Historic Columbia Canal Archaeological Reconnaissance: Phase II. Letter Report.* S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia.
- Harvey, Bruce G. and Eric C. Poplin
2000 *A Cultural Resources Overview of the Three Rivers Greenway Project, Lexington and Richland Counties, South Carolina.* Brockington and Associates, Inc., Atlanta.
- Thomas, Jonathan P., Jr.
1895 *The Revised Ordinances of the City of Columbia.* R.L. Bryant Printing Company, Columbia.
- 1907 *The Revised Ordinances of the City of Columbia.* R.L. Bryant Printing Company, Columbia.
- Thomson, F. Ehrlich
1933 *The Revised Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, 1933.* R.L. Bryan Co., Columbia.
- Trinkley, Michael and Debi Hacker
2001 *Dealing with Death: The Use and Loss of Cemeteries by the S.C. Sate Hospital in Columbia, South Carolina.* Research Contribution 316. Chicora Foundation, Inc., Columbia.
- 2007 *A Small Sample of Burials at Randolph Cemetery: What Their Stories Tell Us About the Cemetery and African American Life in Columbia.* Research Contribution 461. Chicora Foundation, Inc., Columbia.
- 2008 *The Origin and Loss of Columbia's Douglas Cemetery.* Research Contribution 507. Chicora Foundation, Inc., Columbia.
- Williams, J.F.
1929 *Old and New Columbia.* Epworth Orphanage Press, Columbia.

APPENDIX 1. DEATH CERTIFICATE DATA

Cert. No.	Last Name	First Name	Address	Occupation	Sex	Race	Age	Date of Death	Cause of Death	Funeral Home
12211	Adams	Berta	521 Marion	Housework	F	B	20	10/27/15	typhoid fever	C.A. Ferguson
1465	Anderson	Baby	found on RR tracks - thrown from train		M	B	2 days	1/5/15	premature	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
12142	Asgail	Joseph	Good Samaritan Hospital	Laborer	M	B	27	5/13/15	TB	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
14633	Baker	Hattie Ruth	1110 Cabbage		F	B	15 mos	1/26/15	colitis	C.A. Ferguson
3276	Bastard	Addie Ray	State Hospital		F	B	1	9/15/15	cholera	C.A. Ferguson
12198	Bates	Mose	609 Marion	Carpenter	M	B	30	7/14/15	mitral insufficiency	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
3313	Bell	Eliza Moore	Canal Alley	Housework	F	B	64	3/20/15	stroke	C.A. Ferguson
3255	Bird	Rebecca	717 Blossom	Washerwoman	F	B	38	6/26/15	edema of lungs	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
3307	Black	Baby	336 Pickens St.		M	B	1 day	1/5/15	premature	C.A. Ferguson
7449	Blackwell	Carrietta Lara	1010 Lady		F	B	4 days	4/22/15	atelectasis	W.M. Nash
5313	Bowers	Baby	513½ Sumter St.		F	B	30 min	1/13/15	premature	Shelton & Nash
24306	Bradley	Nash	1417 Blossom	Laborer	M	B	23	7/15/15	typhoid fever	C.A. Ferguson
5339	Branson	Benjamin	615 Gadsden St.		M	B	7 mos	8/4/15	cholera	W.M. Nash
16595	Bratton	Edward	701 Gates		M	B	2	2/15/15	pyuria	Shelton & Nash
7488	Brown	Bell	928 Rice	Cook	F	B	50	8/2/15	valvular heart disease	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
16660	Brown	Infant	1332 Wayne		F	B	3 hrs	6/8/15	premature	C.A. Ferguson
9707	Brown	John H.	811 Washington	Farmer	M	B	40	1/21/15	syphilis	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
12200	Brown	Oliver	Evans Sanitarium		M	B	2 mos	8/30/15	colitis	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
12238	Brown	Roberta	Penitentiary	Domestic	F	B	12	6/4/15	colitis	C.A. Ferguson
3246	Bryant	Malinda	906 Plain	none	F	B	75	9/6/15	arteriosclerosis	Van Metre
18677	Burton	Elsia	1423 Rice	Domestic	F	B	31	6/22/15	dysentery	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
7555	Bush	Joseph	9 Green Alley		M	B	2 mos	5/26/15	pneumonia	C.A. Ferguson
5334	Caldwell	Infant	415 Hampton St.		M	B	1 day	11/3/15	congenital heart disease	W.M. Nash
9722	Calmar	N.L.	1508 Wayne		M	B	8 mos	5/25/15	dysentery	C.A. Ferguson
1481	Cannon	Isiah	Fernell Alley		M	B	5 mos	6/5/15	pneumonia	W.M. Nash
5307	Carley	Galey	927 Main St.		F	B	1	7/27/15	asthma	C.A. Ferguson
12132	Carter	Luc	Good Samaritan Hospital		F	B	8 mos	6/4/15	cholera	Collicutt
1429	Cheeks	Edna	1510 Williams St.		F	B	9 mos	4/28/15	TB	Van Metre
5267	Clark	Jessie	Columbia Hospital		M	B	1	3/25/15	pneumonia	W.M. Nash
18647	Coleman	Adam	Asylum Road	Laborer	M	B	23	3/3/15	phthisis	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
3274	Coleman	Florence	430 Pickens St.	Washerwoman	F	B	34	5/4/15	uterine cancer	W.M. Nash
3269	Coleman	Malorose	1300 Liberty Hill Alley		M	B	1	9/20/15	colitis	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
7485	Coleman	Robert	Elmore Alley	none	M	B	31	4/20/15	paresis	W.M. Nash
14640	Coop	John	Columbia Hospital		M	B	5 days	7/24/15	pneumonia	W.M. Nash
22341	Crosby	Amelia		Washerwoman	F	B	56	5/19/15	arteriosclerosis	D. Cooper
16611	Crosby	Ann	Good Samaritan Hospital	Domestic	F	B	65	2/19/15	endocarditis	W.M. Nash
14649	Crosby	Baby	17 Greens Alley		M	B		2/12/15	head wound	C.A. Ferguson
12205	Crosby	Cora	12 Railroad Alley	Domestic	F	B	19	6/14/15	sepsis	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
12135	Davis	Marion Leon	Good Samaritan Hospital		F	B	1	5/18/15	pneumonia	W.M. Nash
3227	Dennis	Katie	1221 Wayne		F	B	75	6/16/15	stroke	McCormick
3282	Dennis	Mary	2520 Blanding St.	Domestic	F	B	80	2/14/15	arteriosclerosis	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
24275	Dent	Infant	Columbia Hospital		M	W	5 min	5/13/15	choked	McCormick
1482	Dobby	Isiac	301 Bull St.		M	B	22 days	11/30/15	convulsions	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
12249	Dobby	Rebecca	1727 Williams St.		F	B	2 mos	12/12/15	malnutrition	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
1545	Eas	Infant	1611 Main St.		F	B	2 hrs	2/25/15	asphyxiation	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
7538	Edwards	Silas	State Hospital	Horse []	M	B	60	4/25/15	exhaustion	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
3293	Epps	Buster	517 rear Marion		M	B	7 mos	6/5/15	colitis	C.A. Ferguson
14625	Evans	Thorney			M	B	1	5/3/15	enteritis	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
22247	Fause	Infant	1106 College		F	B	3 days	6/6/15	premature	McCormick
16656	Ferguson	Boyd	910 Green	Farmer	M	B	21	3/15/15	TB	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
14644	Ferguson	Greene	1407 Whaley	Farmer	M	B	49	3/29/15	influenza	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
9701	Ferguson	Samuel	800 Laurel	Day laborer	M	B	26	1/26/15	pneumonia	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
3306	Ferguson	William	1222 Henderson St.	Oil mill laborer	M	B	18	3/19/15	pneumonia	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
9702	Frashon	Infant	1324 Wheat		M	B	8 hrs	12/5/15	premature	C.A. Ferguson
9715	Gannt	Hixy, Jr.	1007 rear Lady		M	B	2	2/2/15	pyelitis	C.A. Ferguson
12219	Garett	Agnus	1525 Rice	Housework	F	B	48	3/7/15	stroke	C.A. Ferguson
12216	Gibbs	Tan	State Hospital		M	B	8 mos	2/26/15	thrash	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
7441	Gibson	Ethly	1227 rear Taylor		F	B	10 days	12/4/15	marasmus	W.M. Nash
14671	Gillford	Ben	1320 Lower		M	B	20	6/7/15	chronic nephritis	McCormick
9747	Gillings	Samuel	219 Bull	Cook	M	B	29	3/15/15	fractured skull	McCormick
12124	Glover	Hederick	2120 Elmwood		M	B	4 mos	7/2/15	enteritis	McCormick
5277	Goldsmith	Captain	523 Main St.	Laborer	M	B	70	4/20/15	nephritis	McCormick
18673	Goodwin	Lucinda	28 Railroad Ave		F	B	4	1/20/15	TB	Collicutt
1507	Green	Albert	3 Driggers Alley	Laborer	M	B	35	2/25/15	pneumonia	C.A. Ferguson
3277	Green	Infant	1714 Rice		M	B	20 hrs	10/19/15	premature	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
20453	Grim	Baby	Good Samaritan Hospital		M	B		1/6/15	premature	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
9730	Hall	Lizzie	1816 Pulaski	Housework	F	B	28	1/4/15	toxemia	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
3318	Hardy	Inez	2020 Assembly St.		F	B	2 mos	3/9/15	marasmus	C.A. Ferguson
9743	Hardy	Infant	815 Washington St		M	B	11 mos	8/20/15	pneumonia	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
16631	Harris	Ada	Good Samaritan Hospital		F	W		12/9/15	syphilis	Van Metre
5252	Harris	Janie Bule	Bluff Rd.		F	W	3 mos	7/12/15	meningitis	McCormick
18666	Harris	Willie	1710 Rice	Laborer	M	B	21	2/19/15	pneumonia	W.M. Nash
16699	Hays	Richard	529 Green	Hackman	M	B	32	1/2/15	pellagra	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
3285	Haze	Wade	1308 rear Taylor St.		M	B	3 mos	12/4/15	colitis	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs

COLUMBIA'S SCANDAL: LOWER CEMETERY

Cert. No.	Last Name	First Name	Address	Occupation	Sex	Race	Age	Date of Death	Cause of Death	Funeral Home
1474	Heuster	Mary Ellen	State Hospital	Domestic	F	B	60	2/18/15	stroke	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
9716	Hick	Agnes H.	913 Pulaski		F	B	10 mos	7/26/15	colitis	W.M. Nash
1443	Hollis	Maggie Lee	1110 Tree St.		F	B	5 mos	6/18/15	enteritis	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
14626	Holmes	John	1410 Harden	Laborer	M	B	20	10/9/15	pellagra	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
20440	Holson	Ida	506 Pendleton	Farmer	F	B	31	6/27/15	TB	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
3232	Hopkins	Bevins	1813 Gregg St.		F	B	9 mos	7/2/15	malnutrition	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
12260	Hopkins	Milvin	Good Samaritan Hospital		F	B	20 mos	6/18/15	cholera	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
20434	Howard	Infant	903 College		M	B	2 mos	2/7/15	congenital syphilis	Shelton & Nash
22356	Huggins	Mattie	2307 Main	Domestic	F	W	39	3/16/15	bowel hemorrhage	McCormick
9718	Hull	John	1711 Rice	Laborer	M	B	40	9/18/15	gunshot homicide	McCormick
16601	Ingram	Infant	7 Sumter Ave		F	B	18 hrs	2/13/15	premature	Collicutt
1544	Jackson	Infant	2015 rear Main St.		F	B	2 days	11/9/15	umbilical hemorrhage	W.M. Nash
14658	James	Carrie	9 Marshall Alley	Nurse children	F	B	50	2/4/15	pneumonia	C.A. Ferguson
1498	Jefferson	James	921 Pendleton St.	Laborer	M	B	19	5/25/15	TB	C.A. Ferguson
3298	Jeter	Fridea	1313 Lincoln St.	none	F	B	87	6/7/15	pneumonia	C.A. Ferguson
12215	Joel	Janie	Ext. Taylor St.	Child's nurse	F	B	25	2/27/15	pneumonia	W.M. Nash
9736	Johnson	Annie Bell	1917 Gates		F	B	11 mos	5/18/15	pneumonia	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
18602	Johnson	Maggie			F	B	32	9/2/15	stroke	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
1463	Jones	Edmond	1061 Price Ave.		M	B	26 days	5/12/15	pneumonia	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
9719	Jones	Harold	1008 Washington		M	B	11 mos	5/19/15	cholera	C.A. Ferguson
12162	Jones	Maggie	2111 Elmwood		F	B	30	6/25/15	cardiac incompetency	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
5291	Jumper	Bubber	Read Hotel		M	B	7 mos	5/13/15	enteritis	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
7452	Kennedy	Graham	2200 Pine	Laborer	M	B	31	6/2/15	TB	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
12203	Kennedy	Infant	Roberts Bottom		F	B	11 mos	1/1/15	pneumonia	Van Metre
9700	Kinsley	Nathaniel	917 Pine		M	B	10 mos	2/12/15	pneumonia	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
5300	Kizer	Guss	State Hospital	Laborer	M	B	65	11/13/15	paralysis of heart	C.A. Ferguson
7489	Knox	Infant	1008 rear Gates		M	B	4 hrs	4/8/15	exhaustion	C.A. Ferguson
3294	Knox	Thomasea	Church St.	Cook	F	B	19	1/9/15	TB	C.A. Ferguson
3311	Leaphart	Frank	609 Taylor St.	wood worker	M	W	62	4/11/15	cyanide poisoning	McCormick
9717	Leaphart	Ross	905 rear Lady	Lumberman	M	B	28	3/17/15	pneumonia	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
1527	Lee	Margaret	615 Gadsden	Domestic	F	B	74	3/6/15	severe burns	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
3224	Liles	Lewis Edward	928 Senate St.		M	B	3 mos	5/13/15	colitis	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
24307	Logan	Carine	1900 rear Barnwell St.		F	B	2 mos	8/20/15	colitis	W.M. Nash
16608	Lomax	James	923 Main	RR section hand	M	B	25	10/7/15	laceration homicide	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
14570	Lowery	Lorenza	rear Hotel Imperial		M	B	1	5/19/15	pneumonia	W.M. Nash
3259	Lyles	Ruby	1800 Kirkland Ave.		F	B	2 mos	5/18/15	malnutrition	W.M. Nash
1468	Manager	Catherine	2701 Elmwood Ave.		F	B	70	10/2/15	muscular atrophy	W.M. Nash
5348	Marshall	Annie	914 Wheat St.	Domestic	F	B	37	4/1/15	laryngitis	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
12140	Marshall	Josie	Good Samaritan Hospital	Domestic	F	B	65	1/23/15	pellagra	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
16610	Martin	Infant	705 Gates		F	B	2 mos	7/17/15	marasmus	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
24291	Martin	Julia E.	420 Lincoln St. Alley		F	B	69	7/19/15	stroke	McCormick
12206	Matthews	Alice	24 Melton	Domestic	F	B	19	3/3/15	TB	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
1438	McAfee	George	914 Taylor St.	RR fireman	M	W	36	8/10/15	strangulation	McCormick
3279	McCaska	Infant	Good Samaritan Hospital		F	B	7 hrs	10/15/15	premature	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
12210	McCrary	James	25 S[] Ave		M	B	2	1/22/15	septic inflam throat	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
24311	McCullough	Nancy	618 Gates	Cook	F	B	49	2/27/15	pellagra	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
5327	McKnight	Infant	516 College St.		F	B	4 days	2/10/15	insufficient vitality	Shelton & Nash
9728	Miles	Claudia	8 Sumter Alley		F	B	8 mos	6/2/15	marasmus	C.A. Ferguson
1487	Mitchell	Armbus	721 Hampton St.	Carpenter	M	B	55	4/20/15	nephritis	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
9783	Mobley	Andrew Lee	Benedict Hospital		M	B	1	6/1/15	diarrhea	C.A. Ferguson
18656	Moore	George	Good Samaritan Hospital	Cook	M	B	70	1/8/15	heart lesion	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
1532	Moore	Henry, Jr.	2103 Calhoun		M	B	7 days	11/14/15	atelectasis	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
7453	Nash	Henry	707 Main	Mason	M	B	40	5/4/15	pneumonia	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
22312	Nelson	Abe	2314 [] St.	Wood Sawyer	M	B	54	1/13/15	hear disease	C.A. Ferguson
5299	No Name	Baby	615 Gadsden St.		F	W	1 day	1/30/15	premature	McCormick
20444	O'Neal	Infant	619 Assembly		M	W	2 mos	5/16/15	marasmus	Van Metre
5279	Owens	Hozell	1 Driggers Alley		M	B	2 mos	2/16/15	pneumonia	C.A. Ferguson
9721	Park	Almeria	9121 Pulaski		M	B	11 mos	9/14/15	enteritis	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
1469	Parker	Infant	Gardners Ferry Rd.		M	B	2 days	8/14/15	premature	L.J. Parker
16629	Parr	Henry	1826 rear Gervais		M	B	2	6/4/15	colitis	W.M. Nash
7468	Pearson	Infant	523 Richland		M	B	8 hrs	2/19/15	premature	C.A. Ferguson
14688	Peterson	Rufus	617 Marion	Carpenter	M	B	42	2/19/15	cirrhosis hepatic	D. Cooper
1492	Pickett	Sam	711 Hampton St.	Laborer	M	B	60	2/17/15	TB	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
7478	Powell	Cleveland	2219 Gervais		M	B	1	8/24/15	cholera	W.M. Nash
20455	Powell	Sam	Edgewood, SC		M	B	22	10/25/15	typhoid fever	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
20489	Raysor	Thomas	622 Gates	Mason	M	B	50	3/30/15	stroke	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
18575	Reddick	Infant	Roberts Bottom		F	B	5 hrs	8/15/15	convulsions	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
22314	Rice	Frank	2136 Elmwood Ave	Laborer	M	B	24	9/5/15	peritonitis	C.A. Ferguson
7502	Rice	Noah	1315 Calhoun	Farmer	M	B	50	1/10/15	syphilis	Shelton & Nash
24334	Richardson	Edna	819 Gates		F	B	9 mos	6/8/15	enteritis	C.A. Ferguson
20484	Richardson	Janie	Good Samaritan Hospital	Washerwoman	F	B	68	4/18/15	stroke	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
20466	Richardson	Lottie	Good Samaritan Hospital	Cook	F	B	40	2/18/15	TB	C.A. Ferguson
12145	Richey	Fate	2016 Sumter	Barber	M	B	27	5/16/15	TB	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
7499	Robinson	Clara	1719 Williams	Domestic	F	B	25	4/1/15	TB	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
22308	Roof	Bertha Worthey	915 Devine		F	B		1/27/15	still born	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
12158	Roof	Johnnie	617 Marion		M	B	2	10/29/15	colitis	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
3314	Seal	Rebecca	4 Williams Alley	Housework	F	B	40	2/27/15	jaundice	C.A. Ferguson
9675	Seamson	Milly	11 Mobbly Alley	Domestic	F	B	54	5/22/15	paralysis	W.M. Nash
5310	Shaw	Jessie Lee	Good Samaritan Hospital		M	W	22 days	9/12/15	congenital heart disease	McCormick
18568	Simmons	Clyde	Ext. Moore Ave		M	B	1	3/10/15	acute gastritis	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
5305	Sims	Rasmus	807 Lady St.	Laborer	M	B	42	1/22/15	paralysis of heart	Shelton & Nash
24322	Smith	Hezckial	606 []	Blacksmith	M	B	56	11/4/15	nephritis	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
14613	Smith	Irene	809 Hampton		F	B	30	6/27/15	pellagra	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
3297	Smith	John	McCreery Alley	Wagoner	M	B	28	3/14/15	pellagra	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
24276	Smith	Mose	12 Munnaugh's Bottoms	Painter	M	B	24	12/21/15	TB	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs

APPENDIX 1. DEATH CERTIFICATE DATA

Cert. No.	Last Name	First Name	Address	Occupation	Sex	Race	Age	Date of Death	Cause of Death	Funeral Home
14594	Smith	Rebecca	Columbia Hospital	Washerwoman	F	B	50	12/13/15	pellagra	C.A. Ferguson
5358	Smith	Willie	520 Pendleton		M	B	1	10/18/15	enteritis	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
24323	Stanfield	William	616 Gates	Laborer	M	B	42	7/20/15	cardiac dilatation	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
9726	Stevens	Richard	504 Gervais	Oil mill laborer	M	B	45	1/4/15	stroke	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
1461	Strinson	Willie	809 Lady St.		M	B	2 days	3/2/15	premature	W.M. Nash
3317	Suber	Zenolia	21 Elmore Alley		F	B	2 mos	5/18/15	enteritis	C.A. Ferguson
1546	Sykes	Verna Isabel	711 Hampton St.		F	W	3 days	11/19/15	intestinal hemorrhage	McCormick
22250	Taylor	George	716 Gates	Laborer	M	B	25	12/10/15	paralysis of heart	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
7459	Thompson	Baby	Good Samaritan Hospital		M	B	8 days	2/25/15	cirrhosis	D. Cooper
22340	Thompson	Florence	1217 rear Gregg St		F	B	1	7/7/15	colitis	W.M. Nash
9745	Unknown		910 rear Washington		M	B		9/5/15	fractured skull	McCormick
20452	Wells	Baby	511 Marion		M	B		1/22/15	still born	father
9759	Wheeler	Charlie	1 Haskell Ave		M	B	2	5/23/15	malnutrition	C.A. Ferguson
9733	Whitaker	Benjamin Glen	1720 Canal Alley	Hotel waiter	M	B	19	3/27/15	TB	D. Cooper
9668	Whitfield	Martha	1400 Blossom		F	B	1	10/11/15	colitis	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
1549	Williams	Baby	Smith Quarter, Columbia Heights		F	B	5 min	3/22/15	atelectasis	family
18658	Williams	Edward	Good Samaritan Hospital	cotton mill laborer	M	B	32	4/10/15	stroke	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
3312	Williams	Infant	1709 Tobacco		F	B	1 day	4/6/15	premature	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
20496	Williams	John	Kendall Town	Farm laborer	M	B	22	1/28/15	TB	Shellon & Nash
16584	Williams	Pearl	914 Wheat St.	Cook	F	B	21	2/26/15	pellagra	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
5351	Williams	Thomas, Jr.	921 Washington St.		M	B	1 mos	5/10/15	asphyxiation	W.M. Nash
5275	Williamson	Earle	21 Elmore Alley		M	W	7 mos	6/28/15	food intoxication	Collicutt
3252	Wilson	Lizabeth	725 Gates	Domestic	F	B	24	8/14/15	pellagra	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
5258	Woodard	Rebecca	Royster Yards	Cook	F	B	32	4/25/15	pneumonia	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
12207	Young	Infant	1716 Rice		M	B	12 hrs	12/14/15	congenital syphilis	Hardy, Pinckney & Biggs
1480	Ziglor	Infant	1731 Williams		F	B	5 min	11/20/15	still born	C.A. Ferguson

COLUMBIA'S SCANDAL: LOWER CEMETERY

Cert. No.	Last Name	First Name	Occupation	Sex	Race	Age	Date of Death	Cause of Death	Funeral Home
1262	Bailey	Tracy	laborer	M	B	40	1/20/25	TB	Johnson-Bradley-Morris
14356	Bell	Infant	infant	M	B	1 day	8/26/25	premature	Johnson-Bradley-Morris
4711	Blue	Willie	farmer	M	B	23	3/25/25	TB	Manigault, Gates & Williams
2824	Bookman	Doris	domestic	F	B	35	2/14/25	chronic nephritis	Johnson-Bradley-Morris
14358	Brabham	David	infant	M	W	13 days	8/26/25	streptococcic septicemia	McCormick
14328	Brown	Jessie T.	domestic	F	B	20	8/14/25	puerperal sepsis	Johnson-Bradley-Morris
4648	Burkett	Robert Earl	infant	M	B	6 mos	3/19/25	colitis	T.H. Pinckney
2816	Burton	John	laborer	M	B	55	2/16/25	chronic myocarditis	Johnson-Bradley-Morris
2867	Butler	Agnes	domestic	F	B	49	2/11/25	TB	Manigault, Gates & Williams
4620	Carson	Jasper	infant	M	B	15 mos	3/7/25	enteritis	Johnson-Bradley-Morris
10595	Cary	Tiney	domestic	F	B	20	6/14/25	pellagra, syphilis	A.P. Hardy
2802	Clark	Infant	infant	F	B	3 hrs	2/6/25	premature	Johnson-Bradley-Morris
10543	Clement	Levi	infant	M	W	9 days	6/28/25	premature	McCormick
21562	Coleman	Infant	infant	F	B	2 days	12/4/25	umbilical hemorrhage	T.H. Pinckney
4601	Davis	Restin	infant	M	B	21 days	3/1/25	atelectasis	T.H. Pinckney
19488	Dsimpson	Infant	infant	M	B	5 min	11/21/25	premature	Manigault, Gates & Williams
8577	Elliott	Annie Clay	infant	F	B	3 mos	5/12/25	cholera infantum	Johnson-Bradley-Morris
14397	English	Fred	laborer	M	B	35	8/13/25	TB	Johnson-Bradley-Morris
4682	Evans	infant	infant	F	W	1 hr	3/30/25	premature	McCormick
1220	Fraser	Georgiana	domestic	F	B	50	1/21/25	diabetic, nephritis	T.H. Pinckney
1235	Frasier	Estie Lu	infant	F	B	1.5 mos	1/29/25	convulsions	Johnson-Bradley-Morris
21557	Garrison	Ada	infant	F	B	1 mos	12/2/25	premature	Manigault, Gates & Williams
4697	Glover	Marie	none	F	B	17	3/9/25	TB	Johnson-Bradley-Morris
2796	Goodwin	Freddy	child	M	B	4.5	2/6/25	autotoxic paralysis	Johnson-Bradley-Morris
1234	Goodwin	Infant	infant	F	B	7 mos	1/29/25	bronchopneumonia	Johnson-Bradley-Morris
4661	Goss	Infant	infant	F	B	5 hrs	3/24/25	premature	family
6578	Gunthupe	Ella Mae	infant	F	B	3 mos	4/6/25	enteritis	Johnson-Bradley-Morris
6651	Hall	Infant	infant	M	W	4 hrs	4/4/25	cerebral hemorrhage from forceps	Dunbar
19471	Haston	Infant	infant	F	W	9 days	11/15/25	bronchopneumonia	McCormick
19443	Haston	Infant	infant	M	W	2 days	11/8/25	cerebral hemorrhage	McCormick
19498	Hudson	Sonny	farmer	M	B	30	11/24/25	pneumonia	A.P. Hardy
14343	Jackson	Freddie	infant	M	B	14 mos	8/21/25	ilio colitis	T.H. Pinckney
19528	Jackson	Jesse	farmer	M	B	30	11/11/25	TB	Manigault, Gates & Williams
2808	Jenkins	Infant	infant	F	B	3 hrs	2/9/25	premature	T.H. Pinckney
16067	Jones	Robert	laborer	M	B	70	9/12/25	body found in field	Johnson-Bradley-Morris
21568	Kemp	Ernestine	infant	F	B	1 mos	12/4/25	premature	T.H. Pinckney
4641	Kinard	Louise	infant	F	B	16 days	3/17/25	neglect	Manigault, Gates & Williams
12431	Knox	William M.	infant	M	B	11 mos	7/23/25	ilio colitis, asthenia	T.H. Pinckney
8554	Little	Alex	laborer	M	B	45	4/29/25	cardio-renal-vascular	Johnson-Bradley-Morris
1228	Long	Infant	infant	M	B	1 day	1/28/25	premature	A.P. Hardy
16004	Lutson	Infant	infant	F	B	30 min	9/15/25	premature	Johnson-Bradley-Morris
12464	Lyles	Anderson	laborer	M	B	65	7/11/25	myocarditis & nephritis	T.H. Pinckney
14363	Marshall	William	porter at club	M	B	59	8/29/25	apoplexy	T.H. Pinckney
14386	McCroty	Mance	farmer	M	B	35	8/26/25	TB	Johnson-Bradley-Morris
19524	McDaniel	Infant	infant	F	B	9 days	11/6/25	marasmus	Johnson-Bradley-Morris
10560	McKnight	Infant	infant	F	B	18 mos	6/23/25	ilio colitis	Johnson-Bradley-Morris
12541	Mitchell	Alfred	laborer	M	B	77	7/30/25	nephritis	Johnson-Bradley-Morris
6612	Mitchell	Evaline	infant	F	B	42 days	4/13/25	pneumonia	Johnson-Bradley-Morris
15975	Owens	Infant	infant	M	W	52 days	9/2/25	congenital syphilis	family
8634	Patterson	Willie	none	M	B	17	5/5/25	TB	A.P. Hardy
2878	Philips	Lula Mae	cook	F	B	21	2/22/25	TB	A.P. Hardy
4606	Rankin	infant	infant	F	W	6 days	3/3/25	pneumonia & nephritis	McCormick
17716	Reynolds	Infant	infant	F	W	20 days	10/14/25	premature	McCormick
19501	Rogers	Infant	infant	M	W	9 days	11/27/25	premature	McCormick
14381	Roselow	Daisy	infant	F	B	8 days	8/4/25	tetanus neonatorum	T.H. Pinckney
16013	Rugelle	Antone	none noted	M	W	50	9/18/25	colo-rectal cancer	Dunbar
10557	Rush	Virginia	none	F	B	62	6/24/25	uremic coma	Johnson-Bradley-Morris
12520	Scott	Infant	infant	F	B	15 days	7/19/25	premature	Johnson-Bradley-Morris
12502	Singleton	Irvin Foster	infant	M	B	5 days	7/25/25	premature	Manigault, Gates & Williams
21639	Smith	Walter	child	M	B	5	12/29/25	bronchopneumonia	Johnson-Bradley-Morris
14400	Snipes	Elizabeth	domestic	F	B	24	8/4/25	TB	A.P. Hardy
8580	Stokes	Belton	infant	M	B	7 mos	5/12/25	bronchopneumonia	Johnson-Bradley-Morris
19452	Townsend	James	infant	M	B	8 hrs	11/11/25	atelectasis	Johnson-Bradley-Morris
19425	Turner	Joseph	infant	M	B	8 days	11/6/25	premature	Manigault, Gates & Williams
14309	Washington	Ray	farmer	M	B	70	8/9/25	typhoid fever	A.P. Hardy
14304	Weaver	William	carpenter	M	B	74	8/6/25	interstitial nephritis	Johnson-Bradley-Morris
2847	Wells	infant	infant	M	B	5 days	2/25/25	blocked bowel	T.H. Pinckney
19510	Wheeler	Charlie	laborer	M	B	21	11/28/25	chronic myocarditis	T.H. Pinckney
2785	White	Charley	laborer	M	B	38	1/6/25	pneumonia	Johnson-Bradley-Morris
21662	White	Helen	domestic	F	B	80	12/23/25	uterine cancer	T.H. Pinckney
10541	Williams	Charlie	hobo	M	B	55	6/28/25	arterio sclerosis	A.P. Hardy
21593	Williams	Eva	domestic	F	B	24	12/13/25	TB	A.P. Hardy
17692	Williams	Infant	infant	F	B	4 days	10/3/25	ilio colitis	Manigault, Gates & Williams
14380	Williams	Willie	infant	M	B	3 days	8/4/25	premature	Johnson-Bradley-Morris
17696	Wilson	Russell	laborer	M	B	65	10/5/25	gastro enteritis	A.P. Hardy

APPENDIX 1. DEATH CERTIFICATE DATA

Cert. No.	Last Name	First Name	Address	Occupation	Sex	Race	Age	Date of Death	Cause of Death	Funeral Home
17405	Fleming	Thomas	Waverly Hospital	Drayman	M	B	40	11/15/35	arteriosclerosis	Pearson
19362	Kincade	Amos, Jr.	Columbia Hospital	Laborer	M	B	24	2/4/35	burns & pneumonia	T.H. Pinckney
15736	Allen	George	Good Samaritan Hospital	Laborer	M	B	28	10/23/35	cardio-renal disease	Pearson
20271	Kibler	Sarah	907½ Gates	Domestic	F	B	59	8/4/35	cardio-renal disease	Johnson-Bradley
19341	Long	Maggie	2133 Sumter		F	B	3 mos	11/20/35	celiac disease	Manigault
20242	Jackson	Ruth	907 Assembly		F	B	6 days	8/11/35	celiac disease	Manigault
17333	Gunter	Johnnie Lee	2518 Cherry St.		M	B	1 mos	6/19/35	cholera infantum	Manigault
17338	Cannon	Clarence	Cedar Creek	Student	M	B	13	8/14/35	drowned	Johnson-Bradley
4539	Moyes	Eugene	Waverly Hospital	Laborer	M	B	19	3/13/35	endocarditis	Leevy
2914	Allen	Nathaniel	500 blk rear Washington		M	B	7 mos	4/29/35	enteritis	Manigault
6200	Grant	James	915 Assembly	Laborer	M	B	34	11/22/35	gangrene foot & leg	T.H. Pinckney
6297	Thomas	Eliza	RFD 2		F	B	22	1/21/35	gun shot	Johnson-Bradley
4597	Jones	Edna	614½ rear Sumter St.	Domestic	F	B	27	6/9/35	heart disease	Manigault
17404	Green	Major	4125 Green	Laborer	M	B	34	10/7/35	heart disease	T.H. Pinckney
17365	Williams	Maggie	304 Lincoln St	Domestic	F	B	50	3/20/35	heart disease	T.H. Pinckney
19414	Wise	Earnest	Columbia Hospital	Laborer	M	B	80	8/23/35	heart disease	Leevy
20303	Wright	Henry	Columbia Hospital	none	M	B	90	3/3/35	heart disease	T.H. Pinckney
2930	Cook	Mamie	Columbia Hospital	Domestic	F	B	39	3/19/35	heart failure	T.H. Pinckney
15749	Jones	Gwendelyn	1014 Pine		F	B	1 mos	11/17/35	icterul neonatorum	Johnson-Bradley
20299	Whaley	Infant	1116 College St		M	B	7 days	2/20/35	inanutition & dehydration	Manigault
4685	Hopkins	Pochie	Hopkins		M	B	4 days	1/18/35	influenza	family
6202	Wilder	Hellen	2225 Washington St.		F	B	6 hrs	2/22/35	influenza	Leevy
6299	Gloster	Infant	Good Samaritan Hospital		F	B	3 days	11/16/35	intussusception	Johnson-Bradley
15663	Rowe	Winethie	927 Pulaski		F	B	1 mos	2/16/35	luetic infection	Pearson
15658	Hayes	John	Columbia Hospital	Janitor	M	B	55	4/20/35	myocarditis	T.H. Pinckney
17406	Brozier	Union	Columbia Hospital	Laborer	M	B	60	7/16/35	nephritis	Leevy
19396	Guliyard	Edith	Columbia Hospital	Domestic	F	B	75	11/10/35	nephritis	Johnson-Bradley
4700	Robinson	Harry Leroy	1210 Lyon		M	B	14 days	2/27/35	nephritis	Johnson-Bradley
10970	Seals	Priscella	1825 Taylor St	Domestic	F	B	25	8/14/35	phithesis	Leevy
19364	Martin	Laure	RFD 4		F	B	1	1/5/35	pneumonia	Manigault
4571	Franklin	Doris Louise	2115 Calhoun St		F	B	4	6/9/35	pneumonia	Leevy
12586	Barber	Samuel	Hopkins		M	B	8	3/14/35	pneumonia	W.S. Holley
12610	Jackson	Mary Julia	1315 rear Park	Domestic	F	B	16	7/18/35	pneumonia	T.H. Pinckney
19346	White	Sylvester	Columbia Hospital	Laborer	M	B	18	12/18/35	pneumonia	Johnson-Bradley
9453	Mills	Francis	817 Pulaski	Domestic	F	B	18	9/29/35	pneumonia	Manigault
1255	Moore	Treedie	Columbia	Laborer	M	B	24	12/29/35	pneumonia	Holley & Sons
2927	Allen	Mattie	16 Mimnaugh	Laborer	F	B	35	12/27/35	pneumonia	Leevy
6281	Williams	Presley	4 Sumter St.	Laborer	M	B	41	10/29/35	pneumonia	Manigault
2961	Nearer	Charlie	Jagger's Old Folks Home	Laborer	M	B	50	1/3/35	pneumonia	T.H. Pinckney
7926	Peeples	Paul	713 rear Richland St.		M	B	1 mos	9/15/35	pneumonia	Manigault & Williams
11018	Thompson	James Lee	10 Canal		M	B	1 mos	8/10/35	pneumonia	T.H. Pinckney
20270	Weeks	Joe Louis	Arthur Town		M	B	2 mos	12/1/35	pneumonia	Johnson-Bradley
6230	Sims	Martha	Taylor St.		F	B	2 mos	9/18/35	pneumonia	Manigault & Williams
11048	Mozone	Infant	517 Senate		M	B	8 mos	11/13/35	pneumonia	Johnson-Bradley
17317	Goodwin	Martha	Arthur Town		F	B	8 mos	5/2/35	pneumonia	T.H. Pinckney
15696	Kennedy	Infant	Waverly Hospital		F	B	1 day	4/7/35	premature	Manigault
1242	Blocker	Infant	Rt 3, Box 44a		F	B	1 mos	4/5/35	premature	Pearson
4591	Wright	James	Columbia		M	B	30 min	12/13/35	premature	Holley & Sons
17316	Jordan	Infant	1315 rear Park		M	B	5 min	10/27/35	premature	Pearson
2905	Burton	Infant	8 Taylor		F	B	8 mos	8/25/35	premature	Pearson
12502	Grubbs	Infant	1318 Lower St.		F	W	9 days	3/6/35	premature	Talbert
12506	Harris	Jerry	RFD 4	Laborer	M	B	80	3/23/35	rectal cancer	Johnson-Bradley
4578	Jones	Mary	1402 Huger	Domestic	F	B	40	3/12/35	stroke	T.H. Pinckney
12535	Hill	Andrew	510 Hampton		M	B	50	10/12/35	stroke	Manigault
1254	Falls	Austin	402 Marion	Gardener	M	B	98	11/30/35	stroke	Pearson
15657	Jenkins	Everline	Waverly Hospital	Domestic	F	B	24	12/1/35	syphilis	Leevy
1283	Stinson	Nepoleon	Columbia Hospital	Laborer	M	B	38	2/19/35	syphilitic aneurysm	Leevy
12618	Britt	Minnie Lee	State Hospital	Student	F	B	18	6/3/35	TB	Pearson
6201	Smith	Floyd	Good Samaritan Hospital	Laborer	M	B	25	2/22/35	TB	Johnson-Bradley
12567	Taylor	Infant	1510 Wheat		M	B	10 days	10/19/35	tetanus	Manigault
12565	Rabb	Infant	706 Pendleton		F	B	3 days	6/3/35	umbilical hemorrhage	Pearson
2931	Glover	Cedel	8 South Alley		F	B	7 days	2/9/35	umbilical hemorrhage	Manigault

COLUMBIA'S SCANDAL: LOWER CEMETERY

Cert. No.	Last Name	First Name	Occupation	Sex	Race	Age	Date of Death	Cause of Death	Funeral Home
3134	Boyce	Infant		M	B	1 hr	3/13/45	premature	Holley & Sons
976	Brown	Infant		F	B	5 days	1/29/45	premature	Holley & Sons
14629	Butler	Infant		F	B	2 min	1/24/45	premature	Williams
6648	Connor	Eartha Lee		F	B	4 days	6/14/45	icterus gravis neonatorum	Manigault
5621	Cornish	Infant		F	B	1 day	5/29/45	premature	Holley & Sons
14344	Gaulman	John	(alms house)	M	B	65	12/9/45	chronic myocarditis	Leevy
926	Glover	Herbert Lee		M	B	45 days	1/1/45	bronchopneumonia	Williams
11028	Jones	Henry	laborer	M	B	60	10/8/45	hypertensive cardio vascular dise	Johnson
6640	Jones	Infant		M	B	2 hrs	6/22/45	premature	Holley & Sons
2111	Joyner	Frances Mae		F	B	7 mon	2/8/45	pneumonia	Holley & Sons
1012	McCartha	Infant		F	B	1 day	1/24/45	icterus gravis neonatorum	Manigault
12021	Porterfield	Infant		M	B	5 days	11/4/45	premature	Williams
10107	Smith	Jesse T.		F	B	3 wks	9/1/45	diarrhea & dehydration	Johnson
5660	Thomas	Infant		M	B	1 day	5/17/45	premature	Holley & Sons

Cert. No.	Last Name	First Name	Address	Occupation	Sex	Race	Age	Date of Death	Cause of Death	Funeral Home
963	Butler	George	1409 Gadsden	Laborer	M	B	56	1/12/55	stroke	Pearson
3687	Jacobs	Perry Alfred	1419 Gadsden		M	B	1	2/12/55	dehydration & malnutrition	Pearson
8144	Johnson	Manigault	230 Calhoun	Yard work	M	B	62	6/28/55	encephalomalacia	Pearson

**Archaeological
Investigations**

Historical Research

Preservation

Education

Interpretation

Heritage Marketing

**Museum Support
Programs**



Chicora Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 8664 • 861 Arbutus Drive
Columbia, SC 29202-8664
Tel: 803-787-6910
Fax: 803-787-6910
www.chicora.org